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Justice Barak receives telephone death threats

"YOU will rot next to Rabin's grave, then you'll understand," a man said in a recent late night call to Supreme Court President Aharon Barak's home, Channel 2 reported last night.

Barak.

During a visit to Rachel's Tomb, Bibi said it is time to stop saying that observant Jews are attacking the Supreme Court. "A good number of the Supreme Court justices say that Aharon Barak's ideas regarding the judicial concept of expanding the court's authority are mistaken. We lend our support to the justices who say Aharon Barak went too far."

He added that the make-up of the court no longer reflects the views of the public, and personnel changes should be made. Gamiel said Barak "oversteps the law's limitations and gives himself wide-ranging authority beyond what is written in the law."

Justice Haim Cohn said that "all these attacks are unfounded. It's simply a lie to say that Supreme Court justices are prejudiced against haredim. Every judge is qualified to conduct a fair trial according to the law. He or she does not rule based on whether he loves or hates haredim, if he does [have such feelings]."

Cohn asked to pass a "message to all those haredim who besmirch the Supreme Court: I want to tell you that outstanding justices and justices like those in the Supreme Court are just as enlightened, state, and especially a Jewish state, can be proud of. We're fortunate to have such justices."

Related stories, Page 3

Syria prepared to resume peace talks

ELDAD BECK and news agencies

SYRIA is ready to resume peace talks with Israel in Washington from the point at which they broke off in March, Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said yesterday.

Shara said some progress had been made in talks with the Pines government regarding security arrangements and the principle of land for peace.

"There are points which were not agreed upon, and there are points which were agreed upon, and the US, as a sponsor of the talks, knows what was agreed upon and what was not agreed upon," he said.

"The talks should not start from point zero. We said that Syria is ready to resume the talks from the point where they stopped," he told reporters at Damascus airport, as Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa ended a trip to Syria. Shara said talks should "start from the point where peace negotiations stopped last February."

"Syria will never resume negotiations from point zero to spend another five or 10 years on negotiations," Shara stressed.

"We welcome this kind of announcement because it shows a willingness to return to the talks, and we hope they agree to do so without pre-conditions," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's communications director David Bar-Ilan said last night in response to Shara's statement.

Israel Radio reported last night that US Senator Arlen Specter met yesterday with Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy and then flew to Damascus for talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Moussa said he had good talks with President Hafez Assad and that Syria is ready to resume negotiations with Israel within the framework of UN resolutions and the land-for-

peace principle. "Since there was progress in some spheres it is important to take that position and build on it, not to start from the beginning. Syria's readiness to resume the peace talks comes within this context," Moussa said. "I can convey to you Syria's full determination to march on the way of peace within the framework of commitments and principles which were agreed upon."

Meanwhile, Netanyahu's diplomatic adviser Dore Gold warned that relations between Israel and Egypt should not be taken for granted, adding that real meaning should be given to ties between the countries. "It is important to understand that relations between Israel and Egypt are relations which no one should take for granted. They are relations that we invest in, which we hope to develop, and we hope not just to have ceremonies or balloons, but to have real meaning in the development of our relations and our mutual understanding," Gold said in Paris after meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's diplomatic adviser Osama Baz.

Gold and Baz held two separate meetings yesterday, during which they discussed means to advance Arab-Israeli peace talks, as well as ways to develop bilateral relations. Later on, both met with US chief negotiator Dennis Ross, who followed the discussions through consultations he held with both parties.

However, Ross joined the talks only at the end. Ross also met with French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette.

Israeli diplomatic sources in Paris did not exclude the possibility that the US and France were studying

ways to reach a breakthrough in the deadlocked Israeli-Syrian negotiations.

After meeting with Baz in the morning for 90 minutes, Gold said that he reviewed general developments in the Middle East with him, without any connection to any recent event, but admitted that the Syrian issue was raised.

Baz said he is awaiting further information concerning the reports on Syrian troops movement in the area of Mt. Hermon, but he estimated that if the reports are confirmed, the Syrians were just maneuvering and not seeking any military escalation.

The Arab daily Al-Hayat, published in Paris, reported that Moussa had flown to Damascus to directly inform the Syrian leadership about the results of the Paris talks. This report suggests that Baz tried to reduce tension between Jerusalem and Damascus, and to avoid any misunderstanding that might provoke a crisis.

Baz told journalists that the Paris talks did not concentrate on the Cairo economic summit, scheduled for November, which Mubarak threatened to cancel because of Israeli positions on the future of the peace process.

"The main subject is how to move on with the peace process, since at present there is no progress whatsoever," he said.

Gold tried to reduce expectations, stating the talks were part of a regular dialogue between Israel and Egypt, which will permit both sides to deepen their mutual understanding and to work together to advance in the peace process. Gold added that in the framework of that dialogue, Foreign Minister David Levy will visit Egypt next week for talks with the Egyptian leadership.

Money

Should foreign workers be expelled? The tobacco industry's last frontiers Shlomo Ben-Ami's neo-socialism It's all in the Money Magazine TODAY



A municipality demolition crew finishes razing an illegally built center for the disabled in eastern Jerusalem yesterday.

Palestinians protest demolition of illegally built club for disabled

Arafat summons foreign diplomats to express his concern

BILL HUTMAN

YESTERDAY'S demolition by the Jerusalem Municipality of an illegally constructed Palestinian club for the disabled in the Old City sparked sharp reaction from Palestinian leaders, who decried the move as a blow to Palestinian-Israeli relations.

"I can't understand the thinking behind such action," said Palestinian Council member Ziad Abu Ziyad, at an impromptu press conference called by local Palestinian leaders near the spot of the demolition, just inside Herod's Gate.

"This is not the kind of action that is good for peace, that is good for relations [between Israelis and Palestinians]," Ziyad said.

Palestinian leaders called for a two-hour afternoon commercial strike to protest the demolition, but store owners ignored the call and remained open.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat summoned foreign diplomats to convey what the Palestinian news agency Wafa said was his deep concern over Israel's practices in Jerusalem.

"These attempts and measures are a part of a premeditated policy to Judaize Arab Jerusalem, to empty its inhabitants and to encourage settlement building inside Jerusalem's neighborhoods," Wafa quoted Arafat as saying.

Palestinian cabinet members Hanan Ashrawi and Hassan Tahboub and Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qreia led a march of about 100 people from the demolition site through the Old City.

Witnesses said a police helicopter hovered overhead before dawn, as a city demolition crew tore down the single-floor, 130 sq. m. structure. Dozens of policemen also stood watch, but the demolition passed without incident.

The narrow Old City gate was too small for a tractor to pass through, forcing the city demolition crew to use a crane to lift the tractor over the Old City wall, according to witnesses.

Palestinian sources identified the building as a day care center for the disabled, run by the Bourges Luc Society, a non-governmental organization, and said it was built four years ago, and has been in use.

City officials, however, said the building is new and not yet in use. They said there was no political motivation behind the demolition, as the Palestinians charged, and that the action was routine with regards to illegal construction.

The Municipality had twice put up notices on the building, warning that demolition

was imminent because it was built in an area off-limits for development, the officials said.

The police spokesman said the building was constructed with PA funds. City officials said the PA connection was what particularly sparked the anger of the city's Palestinian leaders.

Mayor Ehud Olmert signed the demolition order on August 1, according to the officials.

"The fact that the Jerusalem Municipality provides very few public services for Palestinians makes this demolition particularly demonstrative of the strength of the campaign against Arab residents of the city," the Jerusalem-based Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and Environment said in a statement.

Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem, released a statement strongly condemning the demolition, and called for "the international community and the Arab world to put pressure on Israel to stop such acts in the future."

"We regret such policies, because they are destroying the peace process... and showing that the Israeli government is straying further and further away from the peace process," the statement said.

Fines for serious traffic offenses going up sharply soon

Jerusalem Post Staff

TRANSPORTATION Minister Yitzhak Levy will sign a measure in the next few days increasing fines for serious traffic violations, as part of the plan to intensify the war against traffic violations.

The increase comes as part of an amendment to the traffic ordinances approved by the Knesset recently. The amendment allows the minister to increase fines for traffic violations to a maximum of NIS 2,000.

According to the new measure, the fines on a number of serious traffic violations will be

- increased by several hundred percent. The new fines are as follows:
- Traveling with a load 25 percent above the level permitted will be increased to NIS 1,500 from NIS 500. A more than 25% overload will result in a court hearing and a 30-day license suspension.
- Running a red light will be increased to NIS 1,000 from NIS 270.
- Talking on a cellular phone in a car without the use of a speaker will carry a NIS 750

- fine, up from NIS 130.
- Driving 20 kph above the speed limit will be NIS 750, up from NIS 270. Those caught driving more than 30 kph over the speed limit will get a 30-day license suspension and a court hearing.
- Driving on the shoulder of a road will carry a NIS 500 fine, up from NIS 190.
- Parking in a spot reserved for disabled drivers will be increased NIS 270 from NIS 165.
- Driving in a car unfit for the road will be NIS 500, up from NIS 270.

'Song of Peace' composer Yair Rosenbloom dies at 52

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

SONGWRITER and composer Yair Rosenbloom, whose "Song of Peace" was sung by prime minister Yitzhak Rabin moments before his assassination, died yesterday of cancer. He was 52.

The song became inextricably linked with Rabin after he was killed on November 4 at a Tel Aviv peace rally. The lyrics were read at his funeral, and Israeli radio and television stations played it over and over again in the following weeks.

Rosenbloom and lyricist Ya'acov Rothblit wrote "Song of Peace" as an anti-war protest. It was denounced by the military as defeatist and banned from Army Radio when it was released in 1969.

With lyrics like "The purest prayer will not bring us back he whose candle was snuffed out," the song tapped into public concern over the mounting casualties in the War of Attrition.

Rosenbloom wrote more than 1,000 songs, including "Halleluya," which won the Eurovision song contest. His compositions were among Israel's most popular music. He presided over the army's entertainment troupes in the 1960s and '70s and helped create the careers of some of the country's top musical entertainers.

Rosenbloom died at his home in Holon. He will be buried today at Kibbutz Alnat, where he was born in 1944. He is survived by a daughter.

Train to run from Ashdod to Gaza Strip

DAVID HARRIS

PLANS to establish a new rail line from Ashdod Port to the Gaza Strip, carrying both passengers and freight, were announced last night by National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

This will allow for increased trade between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, and decrease international imports and exports from the Strip, Sharon said.

He added that this will bring added security to both Israelis and Palestinians, as it indicates a willingness for joint venture economic activities.

The decision was made during a meeting last night with representatives of Israel Railways and the Finance Ministry, together with Maj.-Gen. Oren Shabor, the government coordinator in the territories.

Sharon has instructed Shabor to work with the PA to extend the rail route through the Gaza Strip. Earlier this month the Egyptian government announced a \$400 million plan to build a railway from Ismailiya to Rafah.

Meridor meets PA Industry & Trade Minister, Page 2

Police recommend charging 16 soccer players in illegal betting scam

Year-long investigation completed; no basketball players being charged

BILL HUTMAN

SOME 48 suspects, including 19 soccer players and officials, face charges as police wrap up a year-long investigation into allegations of widespread illegal betting in the nation's professional sports world.

"The investigation is for the most part complete, but that doesn't mean that we don't have to still keep a close watch on things," said

Cmdr. Yossi Levy, head of Police Investigations, after meeting officials of the Israel Football Association and Israel Basketball Association yesterday, to report to them on the findings of the inquiry.

Levy presented the names of the players and managers to Ya'acov Erel, general manager of the IFA. The list included 16 soccer players and 3 officials.

Erel told reporters he would consult with the IFA's legal advisers to determine what action should be taken against the players and officials. He, and police, declined to

release their names, on grounds they had yet to be charged.

In a statement released after the meeting, police said that no basketball players were being charged, and that original suspicions that the soccer players and officials were betting on games in which they were involved were discovered to be unfounded.

But a multi-million shekel illegal betting operation was uncovered, according to police. Most of the suspects police want charged were the organizers of the operation,

and not players, police said.

Levy said that the final decision on whether to press charges would be made by the Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office, and that police had recently turned the case files over to the office. Normally, the district attorney accepts the police recommendations.

Danny Kesten, chairman of the Israel Basketball Association, and Arye Zeif, chairman of the Sports Betting Board, also attended the meeting at police headquarters. Zeif reportedly said the investigation, and action by the tax authorities, have dealt a severe blow to illegal betting on professional sports.



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PA demands more economic action from Israel

Meridor, Masri say meeting held in 'good atmosphere'

DAVID HARRIS

ISRAEL is making economic promises, but in practice is doing nothing, Palestinian Authority Economy, Trade, and Industry Minister Maher Masri said yesterday, following his meeting with Finance Minister Dan Meridor.

The two said their meeting was held in a "good atmosphere." No specifics were discussed; that will be left to the Joint Economic Committee which will hold monthly meetings, the first within two weeks.

During a press conference after the closed discussion, Masri called for a total lifting of the six-month-old closure on the territories. Meridor said contacts must be created and maintained at all levels.

Masri later told *The Jerusalem Post* that "what we are getting so far is only either promises or plans that they want to discuss, but nothing on the ground. Our main interest is to get something implemented on the ground."

Masri also said he is annoyed that Monday's meeting of senior Israeli cabinet members failed to produce any concrete proposals, but only led to the creation of a committee to examine Israeli-Palestinian economic relations.

Meridor and Masri said they want to see improvements in relations before the September 5 Washington meeting of donor nations.

So far the group has only provided 20 percent, or some \$200 million, of the money pledged, most of which has come from the US.

Meridor refused to comment on whether he feels Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is bluffing by threatening to cancel the November Cairo economic summit if bilateral peace talks fail to



Finance Minister Dan Meridor receives Palestinian Authority Economy, Trade, and Industry Minister Maher Masri for economic talks at his office yesterday.

resume by mid-September. However, he urged that the conference be held for the economic sake of the region.

Masri denied the Palestinians have unilaterally begun work on the first PA industrial park at Kami in Gaza.

"There was coordination on the

development of this park, and the Israeli side was fully informed, and they actually approved the whole concept that it be done on the Palestinian side," said Masri.

Earlier this month the PA awarded the contract to construct and manage the site to PADICO, while Prime Minister Binyamin

Netanyahu and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky were still attempting to agree on Israel's policy toward the park.

While Israel has set aside \$14 million for the project, the money will only be used if the park is built straddling the Israel-Gaza border, according to a senior Trade

and Industry Ministry source.

Meridor said the Palestinian economy must be brought back on track. For this to be achieved, "there has to be openness, coordination, and willingness to take part in that process," he said. "Each side has to do what is demanded of it by the agreements."

US official: Egypt posturing at Netanyahu

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

THE Clinton administration is not alarmed by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's statements last week that November's regional economic summit might not take place, instead considering them political posturing directed at the Netanyahu government, a senior US official said yesterday.

Egypt has already invested too much both to make its own economy attractive to global investors and to prepare to host the conference to risk cancelling it, the official stated.

The first two annual summits, in Casablanca and Amman, brought together thousands of business and government leaders from the region and around the world to discuss investment opportunities in the Middle East.

A US delegation from the Departments of State, Commerce and Treasury is already scheduled

to visit Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the territories in early September to discuss regional investment, according to US and Israeli officials.

The group will be headed by Undersecretary of Treasury Jeff Shafer. Undersecretary of State Joan Spero, acting deputy assistant Secretary of Commerce Judith Barnett and US Agency for International Development deputy assistant administrator Terry Brown.

The officials will visit Israel for a session of the Joint Economic Development Group established in 1985, and are going to Egypt for trade meetings of the bilateral economic commission established last year by Mubarak and US Vice President Al Gore.

Evolving plans for the Cairo summit will be discussed during the trip, the US official said.

Olmert to boycott conference because Hussein invited

BILL HUTMAN

JERUSALEM Mayor Ehud Olmert has decided to boycott an international conference in China next month because Faisal Hussein, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, was also invited as a representative of the city.

The Chinese recently informed Olmert that they could not cancel Hussein's invitation, because of threats they received that this would prompt sharp action against them from the Arab League, according to a city spokeswoman.

The Fifth World Conference of Historical Cities is scheduled to be held next month in Xi'an China, with the city's mayor hosting the event. "With all due respect to the extreme sensitivity of Jerusalem in the peace process, there is no question that there is only one democratically elected mayor of Jerusalem, who represents all the citizens residing in Jerusalem," Olmert wrote to the Chinese mayor.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gov't to oppose change in Shabbat work rules

The Ministerial Committee on Legislation decided yesterday to oppose a bill which would reduce the number of exceptions to the ban on Shabbat work. Currently, though it is officially illegal to work on Shabbat, there are innumerable legal exceptions to this general rule.

The committee decided the bill would constitute a violation of the religious status quo, and would therefore violate the government's commitment to preserve the current religious balance.

Evelyn Gordon

Karmiel road engineer killed by steamroller

A Karmiel road engineer working on a project near Shfarim was killed yesterday when he was run over by a steamroller that was driving in reverse.

The steamroller driver, a 59-year-old Kiryat Ata man, who was an experienced worker, was taken in for questioning. A Labor and Social Affairs Ministry inspector was also called to the scene to investigate.

Itim

Rehovot police resume search for woman

Rehovot police have resumed their search for 49-year-old Shlomit Bleichman, who has been missing for three months.

The hunt was launched yesterday in the fruit orchards and fields in the Rehovot area, following testimony given by Bleichman's 12-year-old son Itai, who was found in Switzerland two weeks ago with his father, Amir Hochberg, wanted in connection with the murder of Bleichman's mother Ida, and the disappearance of Shlomit.

Hochberg is currently awaiting extradition from Switzerland, and is telling investigators there that he fled Israel because he was being chased by criminals.

His common-law wife, Shlomit, was supposed to follow him, he said. But police here believe they have proof that he murdered Ida Bleichman, and that he is also responsible for Shlomit's disappearance.

Raine Marcus

Deri questioned in probe of Ne'eman

MK Aryeh Deri was questioned last night by police in connection with the investigation of former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman. Police sources emphasized that Deri was questioned only in order to further the investigation, and not because he is a suspect. Deri was questioned in the presence of his lawyer, Dan Avi-Yitzhak.

Bill Hutman

Woman receives NIS 10,000 for hiring snub

The Jerusalem Municipality has apologized in writing and paid NIS 10,000 to Oni Ephron, hired in 1993 to work in a junior high school computer lab, as compensation for refusing to employ her because she was pregnant.

Ephron was hired in May 1993 for the coming school year. In June, when she discovered she was six weeks pregnant, she notified the school, which immediately rescinded the hiring. Ephron, represented by Rachel Benziman, legal adviser to the Israel Women's Network, sued the city for discrimination.

Esther Hecht

Weizman pays condolence call on slain soldier's family

BATSHEVA TSUR

ST-SGT Valery Ganzman, 22, was due to be discharged from the IDF today, after completing his military service. Instead, his parents were sitting *shiva* in their Upper Nazareth apartment yesterday, when President Ezer Weizman came to pay a condolence visit.

Ganzman was killed by "friendly fire" in an August 20 mishap when his Givati Brigade unit was returning from a reconnaissance mission in south Lebanon.

"He was really something special; he was so motivated and such an excellent soldier," one of his four Givati comrades, who were sitting with the Ganzman family, told Weizman.

It was Valery who persuaded his parents, Gregori, 58, and Nadizhida, 55, to leave their engineering positions in Bobroysk, Belarus, and come to Israel. "He told us: We are Jews and the best place for us is Israel," his mother said.

Today, Gregori works in a furniture facto-

ry and Nadizhida has a sewing job.

An oil painting and a large Gobelin from the old country are the only works of art in the modest apartment.

Three blown-up pictures of a happy soldier with his comrades-in-arms, on the buffet, face the two barefooted parents and Valery's brother, Vladimir, who are sitting with covered beads on the sofa.

Weizman converses with them in broken Russian, since they have not picked up Hebrew in the five years they have been here.

Valery, however, had managed to complete a year of high school here and a year at the Technion. He was planning to resume his studies in February.

To get into a combat unit, he had withheld the information that his brother was in the CIS.

He also did not tell his parents he was in

south Lebanon, so they would not worry.

"He was an example of the successful absorption of the young generation to the new wave of immigration which, sadly, is coming face-to-face with the reality their sabra counterparts are familiar with," presidential adjutant Brig.-Gen. Shimon Hefetz said.

Vladimir, who flew in for the funeral, has decided to make a dream of Valery's come true. He will go back, pack up, and bring his wife and two small children to live near the parents.

"Valery was something special: a new immigrant with no problems of motivation. He volunteered for an elite unit ... I wish other Israeli youth would follow the example of the boys in this unit," Weizman said.

"They serve in Lebanon for long stretches. They come out healthy.

"You don't even have to mention motiva-

tion here.

"The youth have to understand that Israel is not yet a completely formed state. It is easy to destroy something that has been constructed over more than 50 years. I believe that most of the youth is excellent, like those here. If reports that six young men tried to bring down their medical profiles so as not to serve in combat units are true, then the media have to help us to fight this."

A short while later, Weizman was at Nahariya Hospital to visit Avishai Shafir, seriously wounded in the same mishap. He confirmed the feelings of the other Givati soldiers.

"I plan to finish here in a few days and go back to fight with my unit," Shafir, who underwent another operation only 24 hours earlier, told Weizman.

"Thank you very much in the name of the people of this country," Weizman responded.

Beduin win week's reprieve against eviction

BACKGROUND
JON IMMANUEL

A BEDUIN tribe caught in the expansion of Ma'aleh Adumim won a short reprieve from the inevitable yesterday, when the High Court said it would hear its latest petition next Wednesday.

The court issued an interim injunction forbidding the tribe to be evacuated before the hearing on its petition against the alternate site chosen by the army.

The Jahalin tribe was to have moved to a new location today, according to a High Court order on May 28.

Few actually want to stay at the tribe's current site, which is oozing with buildings and construction activity, but 49 families (20 according to the Civil Administration) say the alternate site two kilometers away is unsuitable.

The Civil Administration has offered each family a free half dunam on a hill near the settlement of Kedar, which is also near a municipal garbage dump. It promises to grant permits to build homes.

It has built a road and brought a water pipeline to the site, which it

has not connected.

More than 100 families have already moved there over the past three years without guaranteed tenure, but the holdouts say that they need tenure and at least two dunams per family.

The change in attitude is the result of Israeli-PLO peace talks.

The Palestinian Authority says the site is in area B and, since the Jahalin are currently in area C, they cannot move there without PA permission.

The PA refuses permission, saying the land belongs to residents of Abu Dis, four kilometers away, and it doesn't want Palestinians moved for the convenience of an expanding Israeli settlement.

Most younger Jahalin long ago reconciled themselves to the end of a nomadic existence.

Many work as guards or construction workers in Ma'aleh Adumim.

The question has been how to wrap up several millennia of the Beduin way of life with dignity.

"I have two wives, 10 children, and 100 sheep and goats. How can I live on half a dunam? We are half Beduin. We don't have enough water and land for living and grazing, and we don't have enough money to build houses," said Eid Abu Ghajah, 40, who works as a bus driver to supplement his living as a herdsman.

Suleiman Mazaraah, 40, who is the spokesman for the Jahalin, lives in an Eizariya apartment with his wife and four children.

He has a history degree from Beirut University and works for UNRWA.

He has adapted, but his father can't change. "I have often tried to get my father to stay with me. But he says it's a bad life, there's no space."

The ideal solution, says Mazaraah, knowing it is a pipe dream, would be to return to Tel Arad in the Negev from where they came.

But they are not Israelis. In 1950, the army pushed the Jahalin over the border into Jordan and they settled between Jericho and Jerusalem, little realizing that one day the Israelis would come again.

When the High Court hears their appeal, the Civil Administration will have its brief ready.

It says they can graze their herds and live in tents, that they were not living permanently on the land from which they are being evicted, according to aerial photos.

It says the site the PA says is in area B was changed to C by mutual agreement. The water has not been connected because the PA has civil authority in villages in area C, and its permission is required.

In the end the High Court is being asked to arbitrate the fate of a Beduin tribe squeezed between the political interests of Israel and the PA.

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With great sorrow we announce the deep loss of our
beloved father and grandfather
CHARLES PASSWELL 77
of Beit Protea, Herzliya
The funeral took place yesterday, August 27.
For details of the shiva call 09-429321, 09-666395 or 09-595304.

His wife: Ann
The bereaved children: Justen and Levia
Selwyn
Sharon and Joel
Grandchildren: Yoni, Shir, Alon, Limor and Ron

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SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club
will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the Bible
Lands Museum.

הלכה מן האל

Criticism of High Court must focus on issues, not personalities

THE Supreme Court is not above public criticism. The public, sections of it, and even individuals, are entitled to criticize any Supreme Court decision.

The Court, sitting as the High Court of Justice, must also take into account the values that are current in society. Its task is not to impose some kind of theoretical justice or stick to abstract principles. It must take into account the public's legitimate feelings. The issues of religious outlook and faith are unquestionably legitimate values which must be respected.

The High Court of Justice must also always remember that the fashioning of the social and moral contents of this country are based on two assumptions: We are a democratic state and a Jewish state.

The juxtaposition of these two value structures was clearly expressed in the Israeli "Bill of Rights," the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom. It was clearly stated there that the pur-

COMMENT
URIEL LYNN

pose of the law is to preserve and advance the values of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

Thus, when the religious community criticizes the decisions of the Supreme Court, or charges that its decisions are imbalanced, it is on legitimate ground.

The question is: When do we cross the line into a type of criticism that threatens to undermine the foundations of society and the law?

That happens when the criticism of the court's decisions is not aimed at the substance of the decisions, but at the judges themselves. When the criticism is concentrated ad hominem on one judge or a group of judges and brands him or them as an enemy, it no longer constitutes judicial criticism but a declaration of war.

Indeed, there are many instances in which when you criticize some-

one's decision, you are criticizing the person himself. Sometimes one attributes to him personal characteristics or lack of skills, and the line between criticism of the decision and the person making it is blurred. This may also be legitimate.

What is crucial is the nature of the personal criticism. If we can interpret the personal attack as an act of incitement, even if legally it cannot be construed as a criminal act, we are undermining the foundations of the law.

Regarding judges as personal enemies is not legitimate. It is dangerous to our system of law, which, in the final analysis, is the foundation upon which groups with different points of view are able to live together. There are red lines which must not be breached, and it is vital that the government understand this.

Uriel Lynn, a private lawyer, served as chairman of the Knesset Law Committee in the Twelfth Knesset.

Law deans, Weizman defend Supreme Court

Haredi press continues campaign against Barak

EVELYN GORDON and Itim

FOUR law school deans added their voices yesterday to the barrage of criticism of the haredim's attack on Supreme Court President Aharon Barak.

President Ezer Weizman also commented on the issue. "It is certainly very disturbing that the Supreme Court is being criticized and incited against like this," he said.

"I hope it will calm down and people will finally understand that in a country like ours, there are institutions that must function as they should and not be disturbed," Weizman said.

In a statement released to the press, Profs. Baruch Bracha of Haifa University, Yedidya Stern of Bar-Ilan University, Eliezer Lederman of Tel Aviv University, and Berachyahu Lifshitz of Hebrew University denounced what they termed "the unrestrained and non-substantive attack" against Barak.

"As those who are entrusted

with teaching the law, we know the decisive contribution the Supreme Court and its president have made to molding the fundamental values of the rule of law and the defense of human rights in Israel," they wrote. "This is the reason for our call to utterly reject this attempt to delegitimize the Supreme Court."

"It goes without saying that everyone has a right to disagree with the court's rulings. Substantive debate is one of the hallmarks of democracy, and criticism of a ruling or of a judicial philosophy is legitimate. What is not legitimate is a campaign of incitement, or attempts to intimidate judges."

Bracha, in an interview, added that it would even be legitimate to submit legislation to change the system.

However, he said, the line must be drawn at personal slurs against

a judge. "When you label a judge a 'target' ... or say he's establishing a 'dictatorship' ... that's no longer an argument over an issue, but over a person," he said.

"I hope and assume they don't mean [Barak should be] a physical target," he added. "But what if someone thinks that is what they mean?"

Bracha said he believes the public has a special responsibility to defend judges because they cannot defend themselves.

Judges do not generally issue press statements or give interviews, and therefore they have no way to respond to attacks against them, he said.

He also vehemently rejected the haredim's charge that Barak has been mixing politics in his rulings, and therefore deserves to be treated like any other politician.

"I don't buy this thesis at all," he

said, noting that if everyone who lost a case began charging that the court has an "agenda," the legal system could not function. "If someone rules against you, it's out of prejudice?"

"The court is not a political body; it interprets the law," he added.

"And Barak is a judge. He's not a politician."

The haredi press, however, continued its campaign against Barak and the court.

In an editorial entitled "The dictatorship won't go away," the Degel Hatorah daily *Yated Ne'eman* said: "Through the use of elevated language and an academic style, Aharon Barak has tried to impose his approach, that the Supreme Court is the supreme ruler, that it has the power to overturn any parliamentary or governmental decision, with complete indifference to democratic political decisions or the will of the majority."

Yitzhak Levy names committee to study Rehov Bar-Ilan crisis

Jerusalem Post Staff

TRANSPORTATION Minister Yitzhak Levy yesterday named the members of the public committee that is to recommend a policy regarding transportation on Shabbat.

The committee was established following the recent High Court decision on the closing of Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan.

The court decided that the issue could not be decided in isolation and that a study of the whole issue of transportation on Shabbat was needed.

The committee will be headed by Dr. Zvi Tzameret, the director of the Ben-Zvi Institute in Jerusalem.

Tzameret, a veteran educator, was the recipient of last year's Avi-Hai Prize, awarded for the personal example he set in promoting dialogue among Jews with various backgrounds. Since the 1960s, he has worked

on numerous projects to increase understanding among different groups in the country.

Other members of the committee are Prof. Galia Golan, Rabbi Zvi Weinman, Eliahu Hasson, Rabbi Shmuel Jakobovitz, Rabbi She'ar-Yashuv Cohen, Prof. Eliezer Schweid, and Prof. Daniel Sperber.

Levy stressed he did his best to insure that the committee he chose was balanced, so it would be clear to everyone that the object was to arrive at an understanding, and not to impose a decision by a majority vote.

Tzameret said the committee will begin its work at the beginning of next week, after all the relevant material has been gathered from all the parties involved in the issue.

The committee has been asked to present its recommendations within two months.

Inspectors: Kindergarten playgrounds unsafe

ESTHER HECHT

KINDERGARTEN playgrounds from Haifa to Beersheba are unsafe, according to the preliminary findings of Industry and Trade Ministry inspectors in seven cities, from Haifa to Beersheba.

Not one of more than 70 kindergartens in the sample met obligatory standards, especially those related to health and safety, according to Grisha Deitch, the ministry's commissioner of standardization.

Two blatant dangers are inappropriate ground cover and nonstandard distances between fence bars. According to the standard, the ground cover must be sand 30 centimeters deep or fine gravel 20 cm. deep, Deitch said. But in Gordon kindergarten, in Haifa's Neveh Sha'anun quarter, for example, the inspectors found only bare asphalt.

"There's a great difference between a fall on sand and a fall on asphalt," Deitch said. "It could mean the difference between a bruise and a fracture, or even death."

When the distance between bars is nonstandard, a child's hands or feet - or even head - may get stuck.

Local authorities are responsible for implementing and maintaining standards in public kindergartens, and city representatives who accompanied the inspection teams were informed of the findings on the spot, Deitch said. He will submit official reports to the ministry's legal department, which will then take action. Deitch is also the address for citizen's complaints about dangerous playgrounds.

In the next few days, inspectors will return to Beersheba and visit Ramle and Ashkelon.

Egged promises better phone information lines - by the year 2000

BATSHEVA TSUR

THOSE wanting information from Egged on schedules for buses leaving Jerusalem should take heart: Help is on the way - at least by the turn of the century.

"The number of inquiries to Egged's national information center has doubled, to about 10,000 this summer," Egged's Jerusalem spokesman, Uri Ashkenazi, said this week, explaining why it is nearly impossible to reach the center.

Ashkenazi said that persons dialing the Jerusalem number listed in the telephone book for inquiries - 02-5304555 - are automatically transferred to the Tel Aviv national center. There, 16 telephones are manned and another eight lines receive calls and put the caller on hold. "There are simply so many callers, that they cannot cope during the summer," said Ashkenazi.

He admitted that this is also true on Sundays, when a large number of soldiers go back to their bases.

"But it is certainly adequate from Mondays through Thursdays," he said.

If, in desperation, the Jerusalem caller turns to Bezeq's inquiries department for another number, he or she will be referred to 02-3304704. "That is the local municipal information center, which unfortunately has only one line. But they also give information on interurban travel because they realize the problem," said Ashkenazi.

Asked why Egged simply does not add lines, Ashkenazi explained that this is not feasible.

"Anyway, in October, we will move to a temporary building and I don't know what will happen there. But I promise that in the new Egged station being built, it will be different," he said.

The new Egged building, part of the new Jerusalem Central Bus Station whose construction is to begin later this year, "will be ready in three to four years" he said.



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OUR APOLOGIES

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EL KUTTLER

to boycott ice because ni invited

her's family

MUSEUM JERUSALEM

NIGHT CONCERT

Next Rosh Hashana

Iraqi hijackers free all and surrender

ARMED Iraqi hijackers surrendered to police yesterday after freeing all passengers and crew aboard a Sudanese airliner, ending a 16-hour drama that began on a flight from Sudan to Jordan.

Seven Iraqis were arrested after they left the Sudan Airways jetliner at London's Stansted Airport. Essex county police chief John Burrow said there could be an eighth hijacker.

"Six men have been arrested. It may well be that there may be others involved," said police chief John Burrow. "We understand that they are Iraqi nationals. There may have been up to eight."

All the passengers were unharmed but three men, two with heart ailments, were taken to local hospitals for treatment, police said. There were 186 passengers, including the hijackers, and 13 crew on the Sudan Airways Airbus 310 jetliner.

Burrow told a news conference the Iraqis indicated they would be seeking political asylum, but that was a matter for the government.

Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkin condemned the hijacking and several influential British lawmakers demanded that the hijackers be returned to Sudan.

The identity of the hijackers remained a mystery. Sudan Airways Flight 150 was hijacked Monday night about 25 minutes after it left the Sudanese capital of Khartoum heading for Amman, Jordan. It landed at Larnaca International Airport in Cyprus to refuel before being forced on to London.

News agencies LONDON

Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported from Khartoum that the seven hijackers had Iraqi diplomatic passports and passed through the Khartoum VIP lounge on their way to the plane, where there are usually no security checks.

Majid al-Yassiri, a London based Iraqi opposition leader, told the BBC Arabic service that the Iraqis were military experts who had been in Sudan on a government assignment but were too frightened by Saddam Hussein's latest purges to return home.

Burrow said he did not have any details on the backgrounds of the hijackers. He said some of them were accompanied by family members.

Passengers were freed in groups of about 10 over more than seven hours in what police described as a "controlled release," with women, children and the sick disembarking first.

The hijackers made no threats to blow up the plane or harm the passengers, Burrow said.

The flight of the Iraqi hijackers to Britain apparently to seek asylum makes them the latest of tens of thousands of their countrymen to flee oppression or poverty.

They range from high-profile relatives of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to middle-class families wrecked by years of war.

Other Iraqis have not chosen such a spectacular method of flight, but there is no shortage of

Iraqis who would like to join them in Britain.

The (Jordanian) government indicates there are about 20,000 Iraqis here but we have information there are up to 100,000," said Anthony Maryon, head of the regional delegation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

"Some are living on only 2 Jordanian dinars (NIS 9) a day for a family of six," he said. "And these were largely middle class before."

The refugees are overwhelmingly economic, fleeing the uncertainty and poverty spawned by nearly two decades of wars.

Iraqis, especially the middle class whose living standards collapsed, have poured into Jordan under sanctions. But most are then stranded, refused visas to the West where they had hoped to rebuild their lives.

Just a rumor that an embassy will give visas draws crowds.

When the Canadian embassy produced an information sheet to screen out those who would never qualify for a visa, hundreds of Iraqis were lined up before opening hours waiting for a copy.

Desperate Iraqis, even well-educated ones, believed a rumor that New Zealand was inviting large numbers of Iraqis to replace its citizens who had fled because of a hole in the ozone layer.

The reality is that few Iraqis get visas, leaving most in Jordan eking out a living to support their families and hoping that at least some relatives can move on.



Some of the passengers of the Sudanese Airbus A310 leave the airliner after being allowed off by the hijackers, who eventually released all their hostages and surrendered to British police at Stansted Airport yesterday.

Lebed gives peace plans to Yeltsin

NOVYE ATAGI (Reuters) - Russian and Chechen commanders resolved disputes and finalized a truce brokered by Alexander Lebed in the rebel region yesterday, while a Lebed aide said President Boris Yeltsin would study further plans.

Lebed's spokesman said documents outlining a "comprehensive plan" and an account of Lebed's weekend talks with rebel leaders had been passed to Yeltsin.

An aide in Lebed's press office earlier said the president, on holiday outside Moscow, would possibly meet his security chief or talk to him by telephone.

The Kremlin could not be reached for comment.

Yeltsin, 65, who had ordered Lebed earlier this month to restore peace in Chechnya and gave him sweeping but undisclosed powers to carry out the task earlier this month, has not seen him in person since then.

On Sunday Lebed abruptly broke off talks with rebel commanders and flew to Moscow to get support for his peace plans. But Yeltsin, who had offered his general backing in a late-evening phone call on Friday, seems reluctant to meet him.

Lebed has never disclosed details of a possible deal

to end the 20-month war which had killed tens of thousands of people.

But Interfax quoted "well informed sources" as saying that under the plan the decision on the most painful issue of the conflict - whether Chechnya should become independent as the rebels want or remain part of Russia - would be put off until the region recovers from the war.

Interfax said the plan stated that during the transitional period, which could last up to five years, both sides would prepare for a congress of all Chechen forces which would make a final decision.

Interfax said the sides had failed to agree on the issue of whether Chechnya should have an armed force during the transitional period and whether it should report to Moscow or Grozny. Officials would not comment on the Interfax report.

Lebed's main achievement so far has been to seal a ceasefire. The rebels, under Russian bombardment since the July 3 Russian election, seized most of Grozny on August 6 in a raid designed to turn the tables and embarrass Yeltsin before his August 9 inauguration for a second term.

Democratic convention shows drift to center

USING automobiles as a backdrop instead of his whistlestop train, President Bill Clinton yesterday watched a landmark Jeep Cherokee roll off the assembly line and said it was evidence of America's economic might under his stewardship.

On a tour of Toledo's Chrysler Jeep Plant, Clinton watched admiringly as a midnight blue Jeep Cherokee sport utility vehicle came off the line.

It was the 2 millionth such vehicle manufactured at the plant since they began producing them here in 1983. Factory workers cheered, "Jeep! Jeep! Jeep!" It had right-handed steering meaning it was intended for export to Japan.

Speaking to employees afterward, Clinton said from a stage flanked by Jeep Cherokees that American exports symbolized by Jeeps have prospered since he became president because of his negotiation of trade agreements.

"You proved one more time that whenever we're given a chance to compete, we can be the best in the world," said Clinton, who was introduced by an assembly worker who spoke at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago Monday night.

Seeking a balance between a liberal past and moderate present, Democrats were to hear last night from civil rights leader Jesse

than who to blame."

Often identified with the liberal wing, despite her husband's moderate image, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton gave no advance hint of her speech.

But in an interview with CNN, she defended her husband's decision to sign a welfare bill opposed by many convention delegates. "This bill does a lot of good things that need to be done. I don't think it was that flawed," she said.

The law will limit welfare benefits for legal immigrants and end the guarantee of benefits to the eligible poor.

"Much of my thinking about what happens with welfare reform rests on my belief that my husband will do as he said he will do, which is to fix those parts of the bill that are unfair, that the Republicans put in," she said.

Mrs. Clinton remains highly popular among Democrats, despite Republican criticism of her influence in the administration and accusations of questionable dealings in the past.

Making his way to the convention city on a theme-a-day whistlestop trip, the president planned to unveil a \$2 billion literacy proposal in Wyandotte, Michigan.

The president today will focus on the environment and ways to improve toxic waste cleanup.

News agencies TOLEDO, Ohio

Jackson and from their embarrased first lady, while embracing a platform that is tough on crime.

Voices from a liberal tradition spurred by President Clinton, Jackson and former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo get their moment on the podium on the second day of the nominating convention. But the prime slots go to moderate Midwest Gov. Evan Bayh of Indiana and Mrs. Clinton.

"I intend to speak about traditional values and what we can do to renew them," Bayh said when asked to preview his keynote speech. He said he would talk about the "most important need to create a better world for our children."

The convention speeches and platform define Clinton's Democratic Party and claim ground held by the Republicans over the past decade and a half.

Clinton assailed those who try to cram him into an ideological box.

"If you spend more money you're a Democrat," he said in an interview yesterday on CBS television. "If you spend less you're a Republican. If you're a Democrat who spends less you must not have a conscience. I believe that politics should be more about what to do

Bosnia local poll postponed

SARAJEVO - Bosnia's municipal elections were called off yesterday amid charges that Bosnian Serbs were manipulating voter registration.

"I have made a Chairman's decision that it is not feasible to hold municipal elections on September 14," said Robert Frowick, head of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) mission in Bosnia.

The OSCE is charged with supervising the elections through a mandate provided under the Dayton peace agreement.

Frowick said voting for cantonal assemblies, separate Moslem-Croat and Serb parliaments, a national House of Representatives and a three-man Presidency would go forward on September 14 as planned.

He mentioned April or May as possible future dates for the rescheduled elections.

But the Serbs reacted angrily and said they would ignore Frowick's decision which the separatists' news agency SRNA termed "undemocratic."

The decision comes one day before the start of absentee voting by hundreds of thousands of refugees.

The Dayton peace accord which ended the war in former Yugoslavia requires that elections for the three-member presidency, national parliament and legislatures in the two halves of Bosnia be held by mid-September. But it said elections for provincial legislatures and municipal governments should be held only "if feasible."

Frowick said: "Wherever we look we see problems." He did not elaborate.

Pressure to postpone the municipal voting had grown because of reports that Serbs are exploiting international rules on the elections to manipulate voter registration in an attempt to keep important areas in Serb hands. (Agencies)

Mother Teresa improves on birthday

CALCUTTA (AFP) - Her fever gone, a lung infection under control and breathing on her own, Mother Teresa briefly sat up in her hospital bed on her birthday yesterday as flowers and get well cards.

"Happy birthday Mother Teresa! Long live!" said a red banner strung outside the hospital.

"Mother Teresa is significantly better from the crisis she faced after she was hospitalized last Tuesday," said Dr. S.K. Sen, medical director of the Woodlands Nursing Home.

Doctors said she was in high spirits and was removed from a respirator that had helped her breathe for most of last week. "Mother Teresa is breathing quite well," said Sen after doctors observed her for six hours.

Although her heart beat is still irregular, Dr. Sen said that was no longer a cause of major concern. Doctors say given her medical history of heart troubles, Mother Teresa appeared to be recuperating quite well.

Sen said her intensive care unit is flushed with roses, get well messages and birthday cards. Mother Teresa turned 86 yesterday.

Prayers continued for Mother Teresa, the champion of the world's poorest people. Birthday services began Monday.

Over the weekend, her condition stabilized, but her heartbeat remained irregular and she was fully dependent on the respirator.

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560822	Connection to high tension cable 1X240 sq.m. Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details without prices. Length of contract: The purchase, within the framework of the order, will be made within 24 months from the date on which the order is issued. Options: The Israel Electric Corporation will have the option to extend the contract for a further 24 months on condition that notice in writing of the Corporation's wish to exercise its option is given to the supplier no later than the date on which the original contract expires.	NIS 936

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NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to bidders, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation). The Electric Corporation retains the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

During the holiday season, offices of the Israel Electric Corporation will be closed on the following dates: 15.9.96, 22.9.96, 23.9.96, and from 29.9.96 until 3.10.96.

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Will Netanyahu bring peace and security to his country?

When Benjamin Netanyahu was elected prime minister of Israel many believed that the "peace process" would come to an end. But Netanyahu, like all of his countrymen yearns for peace. In standing firm on his campaign promises he will bring peace with security to his country.

What are the facts?

Land for Peace. The whole concept is absurd. Never in the history of the world has any nation returned lands to those who have attacked it. Even so, in line with the Camp David accord, Israel has yielded the vast Sinai to Egypt. It has yielded Gaza to the Palestinians. What else is expected of a country, that occupies only a fraction of 1% of the lands occupied by the Arabs? And shouldn't land for peace work both ways? Shouldn't the Arabs give up some land to get peace? Or why not just simply "peace for peace"? The Golan. Before Israel wrested it from Syria, the Golan was a desolate plateau. The Israelis have created cities on the Heights, and a vibrant industry and agriculture. The Syrians, whose historical claim to the Golan is dubious, are obsessed with it and have vowed not to make peace with Israel unless it is turned back to them in its entirety. But the Golan, would not be more than 1% of Syria's territory, and could be of only one use to it: as a staging ground for a break-through attack on Israel. For Israel, the Golan is an irreplaceable strategic asset. It is also the source of 30% of its fresh water. Such crucial assets should not be bartered for vague and empty promises. A Palestinian State. Israel could not survive if Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank") were in unfriendly hands. And especially in light of the experience since the "handshake" during which time more Israelis were killed by Palestinian terrorists than in any comparable previous period, there can be little question of the enduring hostility of the Arabs. The "West Bank" mountain ridges dominate the narrow waist of Israel, in which over 70% of the Jewish population, 80% of its industrial base, and the most important military installations are located. The Palestinians would not need an army to make life in Israel impossible. Moveable Katyusha rockets would dominate the area. And why should the Palestinians be allowed to carve a state off Israel's back? There are countless minorities all over the world who would be deeply grateful to have even a fraction of the autonomy that Israel is already granting its Arab minority and which it is prepared to expand even further. Israel needs to keep strategic control of the "West Bank", without which it would not be defensible. Jerusalem. Before the end of the 1967 Six-Day War, claims to Jerusalem being a Moslem holy city or the capital of any Arab country were rarely, if ever, asserted. The Moslems have designated the entire Jewish Temple Mount as their holy site. The Israeli government, in its constant spirit of accommodation to Moslem sensibilities, has largely acceded to this and has put the area under Moslem control. For over two thousand years, Jews have been living in Jerusalem and they have been the majority population since the 19th century. Why should they give up their capital, their holy city as far back as memory goes—or even any part of it? The Moslems have their holy cities, Mecca and Medina, and they have 22 Arab capitals. There are important cities in the "West Bank". But Jerusalem is the eternal and indivisible capital of the Jewish State. These are the most important issues that Netanyahu will address. As to Jewish "settlements" in the "West Bank", Netanyahu has made clear that Jews have the right to live in any part of the land of Israel, all of the land west of the Jordan River. And why not? How is it possible that 160,000 Jews living among 1 million Arabs in the "West Bank" should be an obstacle to peace if over 1 million Arabs live within the "green line" of Israel? They don't have to fear for their lives and nobody considers them an obstacle to peace. By standing firm on his campaign promises and not yielding to pressure from any source, Netanyahu will bring peace with security, shalom batuah, to Israel and to its area of the Middle East.

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הקדמה מן האל

Egypt slams London 'rally of terrorists'

**SALAH NASRAWI
CAIRO**

DESPITE complaints from Egypt's government and some Moslems, a Moslem fundamentalist group in London, will go ahead with a planned rally urging a holy war against the enemies of Islam. The organizer, Omar Bakri Mohammed, a Syrian living in exile in London, said he expects 7,000 Moslem activists from around the world, including the United States, to attend the "Rally for Islamic Revival" sponsored by his group, Al-Muhajiroun ("the Emigrants").

Mohammad denied accusations by Egyptian officials that the meeting, scheduled for September 8, would be a forum to encourage violence or terrorism. "Our goal is to revive Islam and put it back on the right path against the forces of kufr (non-believers)," Mohammad said in a telephone interview from his London office.

"This is a conference which aims at showing all Moslems the way for salvation," added Mohammad, whose group wants to revive the Caliphate that ruled Islam for more than 500 years until the 12th century. However, the conference program suggests it is likely to anger both Arab and non-Arab countries. Flyers advertising the rally say it will discuss "the work to expose, and thereby change corrupt regimes in Moslem countries."

They also say it will address "exposing the campaign of hatred by the terrorist West... against Islam and sincere Moslems by labeling them as terrorists and extremists."

Dissident figures from various Arab countries have been invited to attend, including Mohammed al-Masari, a Saudi Arabian political activist whom the Saudi government sought unsuccessfully to have deported from England earlier this year. Also invited are leaders of the Palestinian group Hamas, the Islamic Jihad in Egypt, and the Hizbullah in Lebanon.

Taped addresses are to be aired from Osama bin Laden, another exiled Saudi accused by the West of financing extremist causes, and

Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, an Egyptian imprisoned in the United States after being convicted of a plot to blow up New York City landmarks. Mohammad referred to Abdel-Rahman as "that majestic mountain who calls for 'jihad' (holy war) until Allah's rule is achieved on earth."

Egyptian security officials have complained to the British government about holding the conference in London, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa this week referred to the meeting as a "terrorist conference."

Moussa told reporters that Egypt was in contact with Britain about why it would allow such a meeting and added: "Egypt does not understand that, and there are many other countries which cannot understand this position." The Egyptian government, which has faced a four-year revolt by Islamic militants, has frequently complained in the past about European countries and the United States giving safe haven to extremist groups.

The Saudi-owned Arabic daily *Al-Hayat* took the same view in an editorial on Sunday, urging the British government to ban the rally. "It is double standard that governments who decry terrorism allow such people to meet on their territories," said the London-based newspaper, which is one of the Arab world's most respected publications.

An official at the British Embassy in Cairo said that there are 500,000 Moslems living in Britain and they don't need government permission to hold a rally. Asked about Egyptian contacts with Britain over the conference, he said Egyptian and British officials often have contacts about security issues but characterized them as private matters.

Several Islamic groups also have criticized the meeting and said they would not attend, including the Moslem Brotherhood, Egypt's largest fundamentalist group. Alram al-Hakim, a London-based official of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, complained the conference would give the wrong picture of Islam. (AP)

Sudanese army denies executions in plot

THE spokesman for Sudan's Army, Gen. Mohammed Sanousi Ahmed, this week denied opposition allegations that 11 army officers were executed for plotting against the government. Mohammed Mutassim Hakim, spokesman for the opposition Democratic Unionist Party, said in an earlier statement that officers were executed by firing squad last week.

Hakim said they were accused of participating in a recent coup attempt against the government of Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir.

Sudan has never acknowledged there was a coup attempt, saying instead that it arrested a number of military officers and civilians in connection with a plot to blow up installations in Port Sudan and hurt the country's ability to export and import goods.

Ahmed told the official Sudan News Agency that 25 people are under detention for the plot, including 17 from the military, and that they were still being interrogated.

"A large number of those summoned for interrogation have been released after the completion of questioning," Ahmed said. He gave no specific figure.

Hakim had said that more than

100 members of the military and civilians were detained, and accused the government of torturing them.

Ahmed also said there was evidence of "foreign assistance" in the plot, but did not name specific nations. Sheikh Hassan Turabi, Sudan's leading Islamic figure and speaker of the Parliament, has accused Eritrea and Uganda of being behind the recent Port Sudan plot "with the assistance of some traitors," Sudanese newspapers reported.

Eritrea and Uganda have broken diplomatic relations with Sudan. Both accuse Sudan's Islamic government of supporting rebels operating in their countries.

Sudan, in turn, has accused them of helping southern Sudanese militants who have been fighting since 1983 for more autonomy for the south's Christians and animists.

Also this week, a governor in eastern Sudan was quoted by the government daily *Al-Engaz Al-Wazani* as saying security forces were on alert to counter incursions by rebels based in Eritrea.

Abdul-Gasim Mohammed Ibrahim, the governor of Kassala state, said the alert was necessary "to face any threats that might befall the homeland." (AP)

Abu Dis poses a challenge for eastern Jerusalemites and Jordan

**BACKGROUND
PINHAS INBARI**

IT appears the issue of Jerusalem can no longer wait until the beginning of the final status negotiations as all parties involved already have started to create facts on the ground.

It may seem the rivalry is simple - Israel on one side, Arabs on the other. But more than two competitors are in the race.

The Palestinian Authority is in a struggle with the local leadership, as well as with Jordan. Even in Israel there are at least two views on the capital's future.

In the past couple of weeks, there has been a Palestinian move to relocate PA institutions from eastern Jerusalem to Abu Dis. Under Israeli pressure, the PA moved the office of the Palestinian Geography Center's

maps department to Abu Dis. This department keeps an eye on settlement activity in the West Bank, and in the Jerusalem area from the east of the city to Abu Dis. This village east of Jerusalem is not a random choice.

In the Yossi Beilin-Abu Mazen understandings, Abu Dis was suggested as the site of the Palestinian government.

The PA has based its activities to strengthen its status in Abu Dis on this understanding with Beilin - even though former prime minister Shimon Peres did not endorse this understanding.

Neither is Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu happy with the goings on in Abu Dis. Last week, he told the foreign media that Abu Dis is too close to the

capital and affects developments there. And last week the IDF raided Palestinian security offices in Abu Dis.

Netanyahu is not alone in rejecting the Abu Dis idea. Jordan, although it has made no comment, is far from happy with this development. Of all possible alternatives for Palestinian government locations, Abu Dis is the worst for Jordan since it bisects the route from Amman to Jerusalem.

Reports of creating a "safe passage" from Abu Dis to Al-Aksa Mosque were especially alarming to Jordan since this would give Arafat de facto control of the holy

site, booting out Jordanian influence.

There is good reason to conclude that Beilin's readiness to accept PA authority in Abu Dis spurred Jordan's decision to strengthen its relations with the Likud at the expense of Labor, despite the fact that Peres did not support the idea.

Not just Jordan, but pivotal Palestinian leaders in eastern Jerusalem also oppose the movement of Palestinian institutions from the city to Abu Dis. PA Council member Hatem Abdel Khader said Jerusalem's Palestinian residents will fill the gap caused by the PA's relocation by setting up other institutions in Jerusalem that are not linked with the PA.

This is not intended to outwit Netanyahu; it is not Arafat promising Israel one thing while telling his Fatah guys to do the opposite. Arafat is sincere in his desire to make Abu Dis his stronghold, at the expense of the old Jerusalem leadership, of which Khader is an integral part.

These leaders have reason to believe that the Abu Dis alternative will undermine Orient House - at least emptying this entity of its political content.

This of course may offer Netanyahu a real dilemma - whether to prefer the continuation of Orient House as the stronghold of the old east Jerusalem Palestinian leadership or exchange it for a new Arafat stronghold in Abu Dis.

Election-year US takes back seat on Middle East

**ANALYSIS
PATRICK WORSNIP**

WITH its presidential elections looming, the US has slumped back into a subsidiary role in Middle East peacemaking, willing to help, but only if the parties themselves take the lead, US analysts say.

The US dream of clinching a comprehensive Middle East peace - one that would give Israel treaties with Syria and Lebanon to add to those with Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians - during this administration has faded.

Already looking shaky under the Labor government, that prospect virtually vanished in American eyes with the election of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"For a moment it looked as though the United States might take the lead," said Yahya Sadowski, a Middle East analyst at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "Now it appears they are going to remain loyal to the old maxim of 'never to be more forward than the principals themselves.'"

Washington's role as the key intermediary was undermined again last week when Israel asked the US ambassador in Tel Aviv to forward a message to Syria.

But with the US presidential vote less than 11 weeks away, no one in Washington has the political capital to invest in any role much greater than message-carrier, certainly not one that involves any diplomatic sparring with Jerusalem.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who has led the US Middle East peace effort for the past three and a half years, has paid one brief visit - in June - since Netanyahu was elected. Aides say he has no plans to return to the area before a regional economic summit scheduled in Cairo this November.

Christopher is widely expected to retire at the end of this administration, even if US President Bill Clinton is reelected, and most analysts say any new push in the Middle East will have to await his successor.

Much of the US activity in the Middle East since Netanyahu was

elected has been devoted not to advancing the peace process but to keeping it from going backwards.

The US has urged the Arabs not to give up on Israel and has sought to keep Palestinian self-rule going in the West Bank and Gaza by ensuring a continued flow of aid to the Palestinian Authority.

In private, US officials make clear their considerable differences with Netanyahu's policies, especially his apparent retreat from the "land for peace" formula that Labor had espoused.

The US administration has given no sign that it thinks the proposal for a "Lebanon-Israel deal with Syria," which would remove the Hizbullah threat to Israel from south Lebanon before there are any negotiations on the Golan Heights, is going to work.

"It is the US view that they will have to at some point discuss the disposition of the Golan Heights. I mean, I don't think there's any question about that," State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said. Syria has strongly rejected the Lebanon-first idea. It also rejected Israel's latest peace talks offer.

The weakness of Washington's position has been shown by the reluctance of US leaders to publicly insist on retaining "land-for-peace," a phrase diplomatically avoided by Christopher during his last visit to Israel.

Analysts say Washington was in a similarly weak situation on the question of settlements in the territories when the Netanyahu government moved to unblock the restrictions imposed by Labor.

Washington officially calls the settlements "unhelpful" and "complicating," but Sadowski doubts the US would be prepared to do anything concrete.

"We can stand there and lecture about settlements being unhelpful, but that will be about as effective as lecturing the Bosnian Serbs," he said.

The writer is chief diplomatic correspondent for Reuter.



A Lebanese policeman inspects identity cards at a polling station in the northern port of Tripoli Sunday in the second round of parliamentary elections. There are 580,000 voters eligible to choose 28 members of the 128-member parliament. (Reuters)

Iraq accuses Iran of involvement in Kurdish fighting

THE Iraqi government accused rival Iran of sending troops into Iraq and taking part in the fighting between rival Kurdish factions in northeastern Iraq, the state-run news agency reported.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said Iranian Revolutionary Guards crossed into his country and were firing heavy artillery and shelling towns and villages in the northeast.

Aziz called it "flagrant aggression by the Iranian regime," in a statement carried by the Iraqi News Agency. "This aggression shows that the Iranian regime's

futile expansionist dreams have not ended and that there are no limits to the aggressive Iranian conduct against Iraq and its people," said Aziz.

Iranian forces have previously crossed into northern Iraq in pursuit of their own Kurdish rebels who are as antagonistic toward their government as the Iraqi Kurds are toward their own.

But in Iran, state-run radio said the government was not responsible for the fighting between the Kurdish groups, and blamed the turmoil on Iraq's inability to maintain order. "What is presently tak-

ing place in northern Iraq, unlike what is imagined by Iraqi officials, has nothing to do with Iran's intervention," said a commentary on Iranian radio. "Rather, the existing crisis has its roots in Baghdad's failure to maintain a solid presence in the north of the country," it said.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party, one of the two belligerents in northern Iraq, claimed in a statement that forces from the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan came from bases in Iran and used heavy artillery provided by Teheran. (AP)

Saudi woman pardoned moments before beheading

MOMENTS before she was to be beheaded for her murder conviction, a weeping Saudi woman was pardoned by the victim's family, a newspaper said this week.

As the executioner cleaned his sword for his second and last job of the day, Najah al-Kariss, waiting in a prison truck for her turn on the execution block, asked to speak to the father of the man she had killed, the *Al-Eqtisadiyah* daily reported.

Weeping and begging for her life, she pleaded to Dakheel al-Luhaybi for forgiveness, the only way she could avoid execution.

After consulting with other family members, al-Luhaybi agreed to pardon her. Under the Islamic laws of Saudi Arabia, this means that al-Kariss is a free woman. (AP)

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JACOB L. DALLAL

SLOWLY, details are emerging of what might have become the centerpiece of a final settlement with the Palestinians had a Labor government been elected. In recent interviews former minister Yossi Beilin and Oslo negotiator Yair Hirschfeld confirmed details of an unofficial understanding reached with the Palestinians regarding the final status settlement. A document - the so-called Beilin-Abu Mazen agreement - was concluded last October after extensive, quiet negotiations between the Israeli architects of the first Oslo accord and their Palestinian counterparts. The whole plan may now be a footnote of history, but it serves to show just how far unofficial channels had advanced toward a comprehensive agreement, and just how much Israel's negotiators were willing to give up, particularly regarding Jerusalem. Here are some of the understandings reached in the agreement:
• A Palestinian state would be established in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Its capital would be called Al-Quds [Arabic for Jerusalem]. This Al-Quds would be located in Arah villages on Jerusalem's city limits.
• The Temple Mount would be under Palestinian control, and a Palestinian flag would be raised on the site. The Old City would be without official sovereignty, but Israel would retain control over it.
• Palestinians would recognize Israeli sovereignty over "west" Jerusalem, while sovereignty over "east" Jerusalem would remain open for discussion.
• Israel would annex the small portion of the West Bank in which most settlements are located, and in exchange would cede to the Palestinians land in the northern

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Contempt of court

It would be incorrect to say that the Supreme Court and its judges are above criticism, as some commentators this week have suggested. In a democracy, no state institution is beyond constructive criticism. Neither is it unremarkable that some sectors of the haredi community say that since they live according to the strict and detailed standards of Halacha, certain state institutions are irrelevant to their daily lives.

Criticism or even a certain irrelevancy are one thing. Incitement against and delegitimization of the established pillars of the democratic state - in this case the Supreme Court - most assuredly are another kettle of fish entirely. Some religious leaders and politicians yesterday denounced incitement to violence but maintained their criticism of the Supreme Court, saying it does not represent them. That too may be controversial but it is still fair enough, and a long way indeed from the comment in the haredi newspaper Yated Ne'eman on Monday which said that "the religious and orthodox public has a dangerous enemy...he is called [Supreme Court President] Aharon Barak," and that God would help religious Jews overcome him.

If Barak is an enemy of "Judaism," the question is immediately raised of "whose Judaism?" Israel is a democratic state founded and maintained on universal democratic principles and its institutions - the legislature, the executive, the judiciary, and the free press - are the pillars that independently uphold all democratic institutions in the interests of all the people. In Israel that means reconciling all streams of Judaism plus the rights of non-Jewish citizens, without fear or favor.

We are not often enough reminded that democracy has not one, but two aspects - the rule of the majority, and the rights of the individual. In Israel, the majority rule aspect works fine, but the individual rights aspect is riddled with holes. (An arbitrary majority coalition could conceivably pass a law that tramples individual rights.) Given the added complications of Jewish law, it is clear that democracy has moved into some uncharted waters in the controversial realm of what is called "church-state" separation in non-Jewish democracies.

Haredi parties have long ago indicated they fear the judiciary could cancel religious laws in conflict with the Basic Laws - the embryonic state constitution - and have in the past accused the Supreme Court of jumping the gun on the Knesset ahead of legislation. This was again debated last November in the wake of Yitzhak

Rabin's assassination when the attorney-general suggested measures against incitement in the media. Yet it is time forcefully to remind certain haredi leaders that they are no more above the law of the state than anyone else. The name of the Supreme Court is not accidental - it is the supreme and final arbiter of the state's laws. In Israel as in other countries, this court has again and again raised a massive wall of judicial guardianship to protect the civil rights of all the state's citizens.

The unacceptable attempt to paint Barak as a dictatorial and dangerous enemy can do nothing to ease the already acid relations between Israel's religious and secular communities. If the haredim intend to brand the Supreme Court as a minor organ of the secular sector, by their own logic the secular public would have the same right to scorn the authority of the Chief Rabbinate and the rabbinical courts. These institutions may be as irrelevant to the non-religious as the Supreme Court is to the haredim, but no one would dream of justifying any attacks on their legitimacy or on the duties they perform in setting the moral and cultural standards of a Jewish state. Neither may the Supreme Court be scorned for setting the moral and cultural standards of a democratic state.

It is too easy to dismiss the articles in Yated Ne'eman as the rantings of a fringe medium. But that newspaper aspires to reflect the opinions of Torah sages. Without a firm rebuttal from these rabbis, the danger is that such articles are taken by the readers as opinions of those whose views are regarded as sacred truths. The extremist religious press debated whether Rabin should die or not and repeatedly used terms like "traitor," "insane," "non-Jew" "rodef" and called Rabin and Shimon Peres "Judenrath" and "kappos." Before the May elections one paper said "the more a Jew is a Jew, the more he loathes Peres."

The fact that the attack on Barak has now been condemned by the president, the prime minister, and most forcefully by former justice minister Dan Meridor, should be an end to the matter - except that equally forceful condemnations are required from those religious leaders whose views such newspapers claim to reflect.

The last thing Israel needs is delegitimization of its basic institutions. But a little healthy delegitimization of such newspaper articles by haredi leaders would not go amiss. As Meridor said: "The incitement is aimed at destroying the basic values of Israeli society, which cannot survive without the Supreme Court." That is a self-obvious truth no one would have thought it necessary to point out.



Curb these vigilantes

ANDREW M. SACKS

ONE hallmark of a true democracy is an independent judiciary, and Israel's Supreme Court has had the courage in recent years to act even when its decisions have not evoked wide popular applause. An independent judiciary requires that the public, the police, the executive branch and the legislature honor - even while not always agreeing with - court decisions. But our haredi political parties see things differently.

The Supreme Court recently ruled that Rehov Bar-Ilan be kept open to traffic on Shabbat pending a final decision. Recognizing the magnitude of the issue, it further ruled that the whole subject of street closings required more study.

This wasn't to the liking of the haredi parties and over the past week haredi newspapers have blasted the Supreme Court, alternately referring to it as "a branch of Meretz" and a dupe of the Reform and Conservative Jews. But this hackneyed rhetoric isn't the whole story.

There are reports that several MKs from religious parties have drafted legislation requiring Supreme Court judges to win Knesset confirmation. Knesset approval would also be required of those already serving on the bench.

United Torah Judaism MK Rabbi Avraham Ravitz was quoted as saying: "We may have to enact very clear and explicit legislation regarding the authority of the Supreme Court... We need to fix it."

And Rahhi Ovadia Yosef, Sha's spiritual mentor, reportedly said that the time had come "to reign in the Supreme Court because its actions make religious Jews feel as if we are still in exile."

Yet the charge that the religious

community is not represented by the courts is unfounded. A recent survey revealed that over 30 percent of judges were educated at religious schools. Wouldn't it be a tragic mistake to place theology over merit in choosing our justices? If it is proportional representation that the haredim seek on the bench, then we need many

more women and non-Jewish justices. And what of the rabbinical courts? The entire Jewish population is being held hostage to the rabbinical courts in countless matters of personal status, over which these courts reign supreme. And too often, for example, do these courts leave women at the mercy of men who refuse to grant them a divorce.

They keep secret "black lists" of those they will not allow to marry, and retroactively invalidate conversions to Judaism when it suits their purposes, sometimes years after the conversion took place.

They subject couples to humiliating hearings on matters of the most personal nature. (A friend who is pregnant by a man with whom she has been living for years was forced to appear before such a court so it could establish paternity before allowing her to marry her partner).

Why, since these courts also

"serve" the entire Jewish populace, should we not see Masorti/Conservative, Reform, Meimad, and women representatives serving as judges? Why not require Knesset approval of the rabbis who serve these courts?

SOME SEEKING to bolster the haredi position might point out that in the US Federal judges are confirmed by Congress. But this is hardly a fair comparison. Congressional approval of judges is essentially pro forma (except in the case of Supreme Court justices). But even then theology is rarely an issue. Republicans routinely approve Democrat appointees, as Democrats approve Republicans.

Woe to the American system should it set quotas on the number of Jewish, Christian or agnostic judges; or if Congress were to compromise the independence of the judiciary because a minority of fundamentalist religious fanatics rejected the court's authority.

In this country we are wimes to what have become daily haredi outbursts. The post office in Jerusalem's Geula neighborhood employs only men. The Super-Sol supermarket in Givat Shaul has a dress code for its women customers. Female employees working at the Ministry of Education are not allowed to bare their arms if they want to make it safely to and from their cars. Now these same self-righteous vigilantes seek to manipulate one of the few bastions of independence that forms an essential part of Israeli democracy.

One can only hope that a majority of our 120 MKs will see the folly of giving in to this approach.

The writer directs the Rabbinical Assembly of the Masorti Movement of Israel.

The reddest of all red lines is the Temple Mount - but Beilin doesn't see

Negev. The fate of other settlements, which would not be dismantled, would be negotiated. The Jordan Valley would be given over to the Palestinians. Beilin showed the plan to prime minister Shimon Peres and encouraged him to use it as part of Labor's election campaign. Peres rejected the idea. Today he says he did so because he found too many faults with the document. Beilin says he now wants to see the plan adopted as part of the Labor platform. "I want to put it formally on the agenda at the next party conference in February, and to have these principles turn into the official party platform," he said in an interview over the weekend.

IT'S HARD to comprehend how any Israeli negotiator could be willing to let a Palestinian flag fly over the Temple Mount. It doesn't matter how unofficial or unbinding the talks were; the fact that a Jew would consider allowing a Palestinian flag to be raised at the site of our Holy of Holies is an insult to our tradition, to the generations of Jews who yearned for the return to Jerusalem, to Zionism itself.

Ever since Jewish prayer was instituted it has been directed to where the Temple stood; the Western Wall is the mere support of the Temple Mount.

If Jews don't have enough strength to insist on their claim to the Temple Mount there is little justification in their living in the Land of Israel at all.

Beilin has the audacity to claim that his plan would have kept the city united. But if Israel cedes control of the Temple Mount and its sovereignty over the Old City is uncertain, who needs Rehavia, Bayit Vegan or Ramot? The quibbling over Orient House - or, for that matter, any Palestinian infringement in Jerusalem - pales in comparison with what Beilin and his team were willing to give up.

That intellectuals and leaders of the Labor Party, even if they are liberals within the party, could consider such a plan shows that something is very rotten in the state of Israel.

The heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is Jerusalem, and the heart of Jerusalem is the Temple Mount. The previous government was criticized for not drawing red lines. The reddest of them all is the Temple Mount.

As the new generation of Labor leaders formulate the party's stand with an eye to the next elections they should think long and hard about their position on the Temple Mount.

The writer comments on current affairs.

The writer is a journalist living in Jerusalem.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TERRITORY OF LIES REVISITED

Sir, - The remarks made by Dan and Eisenberg ("Jane's nasty dig," August 8) undoubtedly have the American intelligence community laughing at their naivety, or seething with anger over their audacity. In their piece, Dan and Eisenberg accuse Jane's of an "outright lie" and state emphatically that "there has been no Israeli intelligence activity in the US since November 1985." They also infer that such shoddy reporting impugns Jane's authoritative reputation.

The only authoritative image damaged is that of Dan and Eisenberg for asserting that Israeli intelligence activity is no longer being conducted in the US. It is well known that Israel, as well as most other US allies, is conducting intelligence activities in the US. Nor does one need to be associated with the intelligence community to know this. Reports of Israeli activities in the US are well documented in open sources including The Jerusalem Post of January 31. That the defense department memo, the subject of the January 31 report, cited only four examples of Israeli intelligence activities in the US was due to the

structural limitations of the memo, and not lack of anecdotal evidence. A database review of most major US newspapers would reveal scores of additional material. Since Dan and Eisenberg are purportedly "well connected" within the intelligence community, the know that the open source material is uncannily accurate and only the tip of the iceberg.

Consequently, Dan and Eisenberg are guilty of the same malfeasance of which they accuse Jane's in order to promote their political agenda to secure the release of Pollard. It is not by accident, in a classic case of the criminal claiming victimization status, that Dan and Eisenberg have blamed Peres, US antisemitism, anti-Israel Casper Weinberger, and now Jane's, for the fact that Pollard is sitting in prison.

However one feels about Pollard's actions, there is no getting around the fact that the only reason Pollard is in federal prison is because he made the conscious decision to violate his oath of office and betray his country. He was not blackmailed or otherwise coerced to commit espionage. He actively sought the opportunity to betray his

country rather than immigrate to Israel. Even if Pollard's contention that he was "entitled" to receive was accurate, he could have publicly resigned in protest. The subsequent public fallout would have insured that Israel received the disrupted material.

The efforts made by the Israeli government and private individuals such as Dan and Eisenberg, to secure the release of Pollard are understandable. If Pollard is a victim of anything, it is of shoddy agent handling by his Israeli controllers. They failed to provide Pollard with a plausible cover story, failed to have him operate in a way that would not raise suspicion, and failed to provide a good escape plan - all fundamental aspects of agent handling. The options a person chooses are generally a matter of character and integrity. Unfortunately, too often individuals attracted to the world of intelligence are found lacking in both respects. Pollard chose his path, and now it appears that Dan and Eisenberg are following him.

SHAWN PINE

Beit Yitzhak.

DOG OWNERS

Sir, - D'vora Ben Shaul cites a researcher who found that walking a dog lowers blood pressure and cholesterol levels among elderly dog owners (August 18).

Their bending down to scoop up the poop, as required by law, would likely further improve the owners' health and that of other pedestrians whose blood pressure increases when they need to take evasive action to avoid stepping in the stuff, or who break bones when they slip in it.

As a breed, there are few less considerate people than law-violating dog owners.

MOSHE BERLIN

Jerusalem.

BAR-ILAN TUNNEL

Sir, - The idea of a tunnel under Bar-Ilan seems like looking for trouble. I can see the headlines already: "Ancient graves found at Bar-Ilan tunnel site."

ISRAEL PICKHOLTZ

Elazar.

THE STATE RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

Sir, - Susan Hattis Rolef's article of August 12, "Fanning the flames," continues a series of irresponsible misinformation regarding the religious school education system in Israel.

Ms. Rolef falsely claims, and I quote, "we know that most of the schools in the national religious stream of education resisted introducing programs on democracy prepared in the education ministry" during the terms of the previous education ministers.

This claim is not only incorrect, but grossly unfair. The schools of the state religious school system

played an active role in the dissemination and successful teaching of these democracy programs, in line with education ministry policies.

It is high time that the cheap shots regularly leveled at the religious schools give way to a more careful analysis of the facts. The religious school system continues to favorably take part in all phases of our democracy programs.

BENNY SHOOKRUN,

Spokesman, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport

Jerusalem.

ASTUTE POLITICIAN

Sir, - Ira Sohn ("Yesterday's man," Letters, August 5) may be a frequent visitor to Israel, but that does not give him the right to criticize Shimon Peres.

Peres is a very clever and astute politician, who has been in the forefront of countless diplomatic negoti-

ations. His wide knowledge in this field and his personal friendship with many foreign dignitaries can still be constructively used in backdoor diplomacy. There is no "yesterday" in Shimon Peres.

STANLEY MEDICKS

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הלאה מן האל

Israel in the

More firepower needed for fire department

JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

MARGO Berkovitz's legs turned to jelly when she came home to find a fire truck parked in front of her Jerusalem apartment building and billows of smoke coming out of her apartment window.

"I forgot the eggs on the stove and went to the bank, then I ran into a friend and drove her to her hotel," Berkovitz said, taking sips of water after a team of firemen extinguished the flames which could have caused more damage than just a lingering odor of burnt metal, eggs and smoke.

The report of a possible fire in the Old Katamon neighborhood, came in on the 102 fire hotline at the main fire department in Jerusalem in Givat Mordechai at 13:48. Three of the nine firemen on duty rushed out of the station. On their way to the apartment the team called back for directions to the Hachish street address. Back in the control room, switchboard operator Roni Amira and Jerusalem Fire Chief Rami Yaffe, who happened to be there, consulted two huge rolling maps and verbally navigated the fire truck to the location. By 13:52 they had arrived.

At the same time, calls were coming in on the five lines to report a brush fire on the outskirts of Liberty Bell Park. Amira - a volunteer, and a new switchboard operator took the calls and the phone lines crisscrossed each other across the switchboard. A team had already been sent to deal with that fire. In the end, about six dunams of empty field behind the park were burnt.

"Jerusalem is the most problematic city in terms of fires," said Yaffe, who at 54 is the oldest fireman in Jerusalem. "There is a lot of crowded population areas, a lot of old buildings, old neighborhoods and a lot of old churches and synagogues with wooden roofs."

Israel has 24 fire stations with a total of 1,200 firemen. Yaffe said the number should be six times as much according to international standards which call for one fireman for every 1,000 citizens. In Jerusalem alone there should be 600 he said, but he would be happy with 200. Right now there are 95 firemen in the capital city, with plans to recruit an additional 16.

According to the Lapidot Commission which investigated last summer's fire in the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv corridor, the number of firemen in Israel is three to four times less than it

should be. Although they said the firemen worked "more or less" well during the July 2, 1995 fire, the commission was less than satisfied with the overall condition of fire stations in Israel.

In addition to the lack of manpower, they said there is not enough fire-fighting equipment and in some places the equipment is outdated. Fire stations are not properly prepared to deal with forest fires and the professional level of firemen has gone down due to lack of enough training courses, the report said.

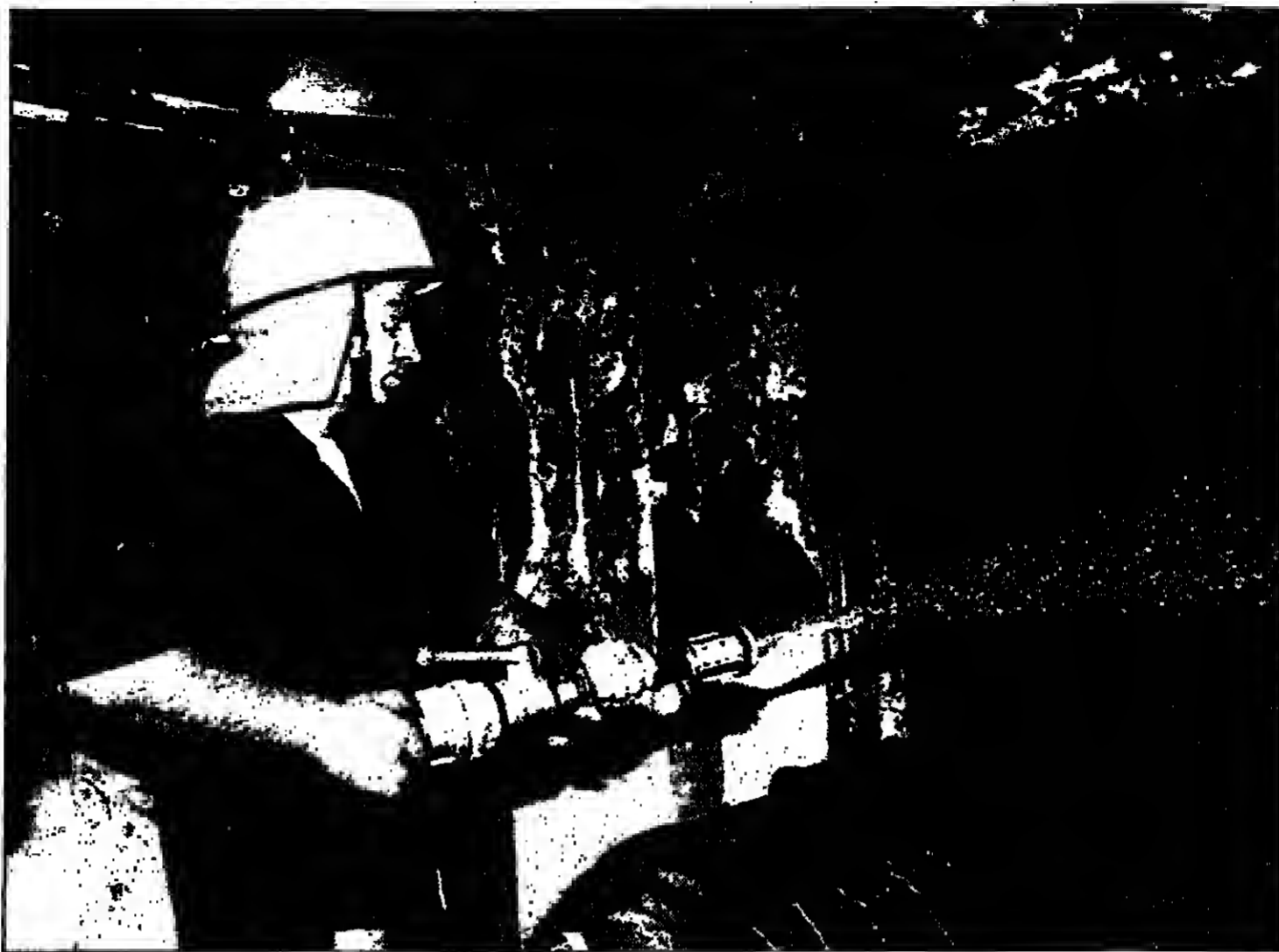
The report suggested a four-year plan to remedy the situation which included the establishment of a fire-fighting course and the lowering of the retirement age of firemen from the current 65 to a possibility of retirement at 55. The average age of firemen now is 30, said Yaffe, and they can be no older than 26 when they start working.

Right now, when a person is recruited to be a fireman, he spends three months learning the ropes at the station and slowly over the next six months he is given more responsibility under the supervision of veteran firemen. In general, only after a year of hands-on training at a station does a new fireman go to the basic fire-fighting course at the Fire and Rescue School in Rishon LeZion. Later there are more advanced courses, but Yaffe acknowledged that he would like to see the courses being offered with more frequency.

Fire and Rescue Commission Department chief Uri Manos said that in response to the Lapidot Commission's report another NIS 20 million has been added to the fire department budget to buy new equipment and improve existing facilities, and some 70 new firemen have been recruited, with plans to recruit a total of 200. Seven new stations are slated to be built all over the country, including two in Beit Shmesh, which had jurisdiction over last year's fire.

"Thanks to the Lapidot Commission we will be able to increase the number of personnel and the number of fire stations," said Yaffe. "I still haven't seen any actual results yet, but there are signs of movement."

MEANWHILE, over in Wadi Joz the four firemen on duty - commander Akram Mushash and his crew of three fire fighters - have spent part of the morning rescuing a woman whose car overturned in a traffic accident.



According to the Lapidot Commission which investigated last summer's fire in the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv corridor, the number of fire-fighters in Israel is three to four times less than it could be. Since the commission released its findings, some steps have been taken to rectify the problem. In this photo, a fireman hoses down a blaze in Ramat Gan.

(Gideon Markovitz/PPA)

The Wadi Joz station is responsible for the area of eastern Jerusalem and the Old City, including the Jewish Quarter. In addition to two standard sized fire trucks, the station has a smaller covered pick-up truck that can be used on the narrow streets of the Old City. Sometimes, though, the streets are even too narrow for that truck so the firemen grab an emergency bag equipped with fire-hose and run on foot to the fire, connecting the hose to water hydrants in the street.

During the early years of the Intifada the firemen at Wadi Joz were harassed and even one of their fire trucks was set alight in the station. "The Intifada was very difficult for us," said fireman Mousa Totah, the station fire investigator. "Every day there were six or seven fires, with cars and stores being burnt."

At first people would throw rocks at them, he said, and once they were confronted by a gang of masked men who wanted to burn their truck. "I told them if they burned the truck, not to come to us when there was fire in their house or in their uncle's house, I told them we were not involved in politics and that our job was to help. In the end they understood and let us by," said Totah. Later, the firemen placed notices in the local newspapers explaining that they were there to help the community.

Firemen not only fight fires, said Yaffe, but they are also the ones who rescue people from the tangled mess of their cars after a traffic accident, who free people stuck in elevators, who are called when a house collapses, there is a gas leak or children are locked in an apartment or car.

"There is no other group that has the answer to save the life of a person the way firemen do," he said.

"There is no greater joy than saving the life of a person. That is what we do. Saving property comes later."

But every call to the fire department costs money. After they do a job they send out their bill, which can range from a few hundred shekels to thousands of shekels, depending on the type of work they had to do. The money goes to the municipality.

and have a professional spokesman, he said.

"It was as if the firemen didn't do anything, but it is not like that. The police controlled the area but it was the firemen who did the work. The first ones to go in are the firemen," said Amira, 29. "I think this whole issue hinders every fireman. But the police have a spokesman who is in touch with the press."

Later in the evening, the smell of charred wood and brush lingered in the air back at Liberty Bell Park as Jerusalemites played basketball and families with young children streamed to the amusement park set up nearby. A spark was ignited again and small flames flickered in the darkness of the burnt embers. A call, comes in to the 102 telephone line and the night duty operator informs the caller that the firemen are already on their way.

German army markets itself to reluctant soldiers

IN an aggressive marketing blitz, Germany's armed forces are aiming to persuade more young men to do what the law says they must do anyway - military service.

To a pulsating beat, a television commercial shows dramatic action shots of paratroopers, helicopters, tanks and warships in rock-music video style. A clean-cut young German soldier suddenly appears and declares: "This is the greatest."

With more and more potential recruits taking advantage of a provision which allows them to dodge the draft simply by writing a letter outlining why they feel they cannot serve, the Bundeswehr is bringing out the big guns to promote itself.

The advertising blitz that began airing on German television this month, conceived by the Duesseeldorf-based Abels & Grey agency, cost more than 10 million marks (NIS 20.8m.) - almost half the defence ministry's public relations budget. But according to officials, it will be money well spent if it can reverse the trend away from military service.

Around 160,000 of the 415,000 young men called up for military duty last year refused to serve. It was a record, higher even than in 1991, the year of the Gulf War. The record might be broken this year. The number of conscientious objectors rose slightly in early 1996, the defence ministry said. Although it dipped again in May, the military is not convinced the trend has been broken.

The law requires men to serve 10 months in the military but allows exceptions in which objectors spend 13 months doing civilian work in hospitals or other social functions.

The record number of objectors comes as Germany conducts its boldest foreign military mission in 50 years by contributing soldiers to the international force upholding the Dayton peace accord for former Yugoslavia. Chancellor Helmut Kohl, whittling away at a national pacifist streak spawned by the country's military past, has insisted that unified Germany step up its military role to match its economic muscle and show solidarity with NATO allies. (Reuters)

Nazi slaves set for compensation 50 years after

FIONA FLECK

SARA E. and 24 other former Nazi slaves are on the verge of winning compensation awards from Germany that could pave the way for thousands more claims from Holocaust survivors around the world.

Sara, a Polish Jew, survived massacres at the Warsaw ghetto where she lost her entire family. She was taken to Auschwitz concentration camp in 1943 and survived the notorious "selections" when deportees were singled out, by the SS, to join an army of slaves. The rest were sent to their deaths in the gas chambers. Sara was sold to a German firm, to work in its arms factory.

After half a century of uncertainty, Sara, now 73, living in Israel on a meager pension and still scarred by her ordeal, looks closer than ever to remuneration after Germany's highest court ruled last month there was no legal barrier to her claim.

"I worked 12 hours a day at the conveyor belt assembling grenades - even with typhus and a raging fever. We were woken at 3 a.m. every day and had to march two hours to the factory," Sara said in a statement to the Bonn court examining her claim.

"At midday we had a bowl of watery soup for three women. In the evening each had a piece of bread and ersatz tea," said Sara, who escaped her Nazi tormentors on the notorious "death marches" as SS camp guards fled the advancing Red Army.

Hitler's armaments minister, Albert Speer, cited 11 million slaves in 1944 - seven million in Germany - tolling in his vast empire of camps and arms factories stretching across the Nazi-occupied lands from Norway to Algeria. A year later at

Nuremberg war crimes trials, Speer was prosecuted and sentenced to 20 years in jail for his use of slave labor.

"Work conditions were appalling. They were starved and beaten by SS guards and few survived," said Baron Klaus von Muenchhausen, who has campaigned for the women for 10 years. Muenchhausen, who lectures at Bremen University's Raphael Lemkin Institute for the study of xenophobia and genocide, said the Nazis used and sold more slaves during their 14-year rule than traders who enslaved 15 million Africans over 300 years.

"The Nazis debated whether labor should be a tool of extermination - whether their victims should be worked to death, or whether they should be treated better so that they would not have to keep re-training new workers," he said.

"THESE women are old and frail and do not have the means to press for compensation. I met them in 1985 and they asked me to help them," said Muenchhausen, who found an anonymous German sponsor to pay the women's legal fees.

Muenchhausen campaigned successfully on behalf of about 100 twins used as human guinea pigs for gruesome medical experiments by the "Angel of Death" Nazi doctor Josef Mengele. The German government awarded them prompt compensation in 1987.

But compensation for ex-slaves seemed unattainable because of a legal anomaly. "The Nazis' forced labor workers have long been entitled to compensation but have been

prevented from making successful claims because of the London Debt Agreement of 1953," he said. One article of the agreement, under which then-West Germany took over Nazi Germany's debts, states that forced labor workers could not be paid compensation until Germany signed a formal peace treaty with its former foes.

But divided Germany never did during the Cold War.

"Individual claims failed in the past because of this, so we are suing the government for obstructing these rightful claims by not keeping its laws in order," he said, on behalf of the women now living in Israel, the United States and Canada.

Muenchhausen argued that Germany had effectively declared peace with the countries it occupied and with former enemies in two historic agreements signed in 1990: the German-Polish border accord and the so-called "Two-Plus-Four" treaty. The treaty signed by the four wartime Allies and two Germans paved the way for German unification. This, he said, meant that compensation claims could no longer be barred.

In 1993 a Bonn regional court accepted his arguments but sought advice from the Federal Constitutional Court, Germany's highest court, on whether state-to-individual as opposed to state-to-state compensation payments were lawful.

In June this year the Constitutional Court said there was no legal barrier to stop the Bonn court processing the claims. "The next stage is for the parties and the court to negotiate, then the court officials will discuss what to do next," the court spokesman said. A date for the hearing will be announced when the court convenes for its Autumn session in September.

Many German firms used slave labor during the Third Reich. This ruling could pave the way for a flood of compensation claims.

IG Farben, which produced the Zyklon B gas for the death camps, paid 30 million marks (\$20 million) in compensation to the Jewish Claims Conference in 1957. The firm was broken up after the war and its plants transferred to Hoechst, Bayer and BASF, now Germany's three largest chemical firms. But neither those firms nor IG Farben accept responsibility for the suffering of about 350,000 slave workers or have ever paid individual compensation.

Campaigners in Germany have infiltrated shareholders' meetings by buying stock in the listed companies to pressure the management into paying up, so far without success.

The firms argue they had no choice but to use slave labor at the time because the civilian workforce was depleted by the war. They say that if anyone should pay, it is the German government as the legal successor to Hitler's Third Reich.

Muenchhausen said the German State paid Union - the firm that owned the arms factory where Sara worked, 2.5 million marks (\$1.68 million) in damages for loss of property at the end of the war. "You have a totally unjust situation where the perpetrators were reimbursed for their losses, while the victims were left in the lurch," he said. "I think this will count in our favor."

(Reuters)

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Tour guide: Israel Shalem
- Thursday October 3** THE CRATERS OF THE NEGEV
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NIS 170 including lunch
Tour guide: Oded Feder
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NIS 170 including lunch
Tour guide: Oded Feder
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wednesday, August 28, 1996

Shekel appreciates to central bank's limit

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE shekel yesterday appreciated to a level which is a mere 0.04 percent above the limit set by the Bank of Israel's so-called "diagonal line" mechanism.

The central bank is committed to preventing the shekel from appreciating or depreciating more than 7% away from a middle point drawn from a weighted value of the world's five leading currencies which graphed over time creates a diagonal line.

The shekel traded in inter-banking yesterday at 3.137 to the dollar, a 0.13% appreciation in comparison with the previous trading day.

Against the central bank's basket of currencies the shekel stood at 3.5385.

Currencies ordinarily appreciate in markets influenced by recessionary expectations, which assume higher unemployment, shrinking demand, and therefore reduced inflation.

Both Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel and Finance Minister Dan Meridor said this week the economy was "slowing down."

In line with its diagonal mechanism, the central bank is likely to intervene in currency trading tomorrow, in an attempt to deflate the shekel.

An excessively strong currency poses a challenge to exporters, whose local returns from earnings abroad are consequently hurt. Industrial circles have long been lobbying for a weaker currency, but the central bank has consistently stood by its strong-shekel policy, and repeatedly said it would refrain from an administrative devaluation, which is a revaluation by decree.

The Bank of Israel might, in fact, expand the 7% bands which currently envelope the diagonal, thus allowing for current market forces to make the shekel even stronger.

Banker: Wertheimer-Zisser effort may torpedo Migdal-Generali deal

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Wertheimer-Zisser investor group's efforts to seize a quarter of the Africa Israel holding company could torpedo the Migdal-Generali insurance deal, though it will be a very difficult task, a senior banking source said yesterday.

Meanwhile Africa Israel shares jumped seven percent at the start of trading on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday, amid rumors that Eitan Wertheimer and Motti Zisser have received a credit line of NIS 200-250m. from Bank Hapoalim against collateral, for the purchase of Africa Israel shares.

According to the *Globes* financial daily, the two have made an official bid for the acquisition of

Bank Leumi's entire 51% stake in Africa Israel, after having previously purchased 7% of the holding company's shares, with the aim of ultimately accumulating 25% of the company.

Brokers said speculators are currently purchasing Africa Israel shares with the aim of selling them to the Wertheimer-Zisser consortium at a higher price.

Bank Leumi needs the approval of at least 75% of Africa Israel's shareholders in order to sell 40% of insurer Migdal to Assicurazioni Generali.

That transaction is subject to a spin-off of Leumi insurance holdings, the parent company of

Migdal, from Africa Israel. Bank Leumi's board of directors approved that spin-off earlier this week.

Wertheimer and Zisser want to see Migdal within Africa Israel as Leumi parts with it, in accordance with the newly revised Banking Law's limits on the banks' non-financial holdings.

If the Wertheimer-Zisser consortium manages to purchase 25% of Africa Israel's stock, it could block Leumi's spin-off plans.

Meanwhile, Leumi has rescheduled an Africa Israel shareholder meeting to September from November.

According to one banker, in

order to block Bank Leumi, Zisser will have to buy about half of the shares available on the market, at a time when prices are rising due to speculation.

"If they really want to purchase the shares they can, but if they fail — the shares will almost immediately plunge leaving them in a very vulnerable financial position," he said.

Zisser and Wertheimer are believed to be planning to purchase an 8-10% stake in Africa Israel currently held by a group of South African investors.

Both Zisser and Bank Hapoalim refused to comment.

Bank Leumi said it does not believe Zisser will manage to block the spin off.

PM's Office: Options plan not high priority

DAVID HARRIS

THE so-called "options plan," conceived by the previous government to jump-start the privatization process by offering the public option vouchers for shares in state-owned companies, is "not a high priority" on the new government's agenda, the Prime Minister's Office said last night.

However, it firmly denied the speculation that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is considering abolishing the scheme before it gets off the ground. MK Avraham Shohat (Labor) last month described as "very bizarre" the suggestion that Netanyahu would

completely abandon the scheme.

Had Labor won the May general election, the party promised it would offer all citizens the opportunity to purchase shares in government-owned companies; \$5 billion worth in 1997. Then finance minister Shohat delayed launching the voucher system under pressure from party colleagues, who argued its introduction before the election would be seen as a sweetener to voters.

The program, modeled on the one successfully implemented in

the Czech Republic, and emulated in various other post-Communist countries with varying degrees of success, involves distributing to the public free options that could be used to purchase, at a discount, a package of shares in firms that stand to be privatized. This is facilitated by the widespread distribution of vouchers, which can be redeemed, allowing small-time investors to hold shares.

Under the Shohat program, everyone listed in the voters' registry, about 3.8 million people, would have been entitled to receive the options.

Zim stake to be sold, says official

DAVID HARRIS

THE government has every intention of selling off the Zim shipping and container line, Moshe Leon, the official responsible for privatization in the Prime Minister's Office, said yesterday.

While denying media reports that Netanyahu is now not considering selling off the government's 48.61 percent share in the company, Leon confirmed the sale would not be by public flotation.

It is still unknown how, when or to whom Zim will be sold, but a likely candidate to purchase the government stake is the company's

current major shareholder, investor Shoul Eisenberg.

The Labor government did announce its intention to sell 25% of its company holdings in the US.

Zim, one of the top 10 container shipping firms in the world, last year recorded pre-tax profits of \$23.2 million, down 46.5% from the 1994 total of \$43.4m.

Under Leon's direction, the Prime Minister's Office is to announce its detailed privatization plans in October or November,

considerably later than Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor initially anticipated.

On his election, Netanyahu said he wanted the structural changes in the economy to be crystallized within the first 100 days of the new government. Meanwhile, Meridor was scheduled to provide a list of companies for structural change in the first half of August, but this too has not happened.

In the plan, Leon will also present proposals for restructuring the economy and increasing competition.

UMB profits remain firm

Bank's NY subsidiary to be sold to Safdie; Clal profits down 24%; Israel Corp. returns to the black

COMPANY RESULTS
GALIT LIPKIS BECK

UNITED Mizrahi Bank (UMB) completed the second quarter of 1996 with only a 3.3 percent drop in net profits, despite special provisions of NIS 30m. for pension and compensation payments to workers who will be fired.

Meanwhile, the bank announced that Commercial Bank of New York, owned by Brazilian banking millionaire Edmundo Safdie, is expected to sign an agreement to acquire its New York subsidiary, United Mizrahi Bank (UMB) and Trust Company, by September 15.

According to the agreement, UMB Trust Company will be sold at a price based on the net asset value of the company on the eve of the transaction.

At the end of the second quarter of 1996, UMB Trust Company had total assets of NIS 984.5m.

UMB reported an increase in second quarter net profit to NIS 31.4m, compared with a net profit of NIS 32.5m. in the corresponding period last year.

Net income for the first half of the year fell 5% to NIS 66.7m, compared with NIS 70.2m. in the first six months of 1995.

Management emphasized second quarter net profits would have increased 47.4% to NIS 47.9m. if not for the special provision for pension and compensation payments.

On August 1, after a five-day bank strike associated with a management-workers dispute, it was agreed that 140 workers would be fired at an estimated cost of NIS

30m. It was also agreed to offer an additional 180 workers the option to retire at preferential conditions. Management estimates the program to cost NIS 18m.

Net return on equity on an annual basis fell to 8.3% from 9.3%.

Key factors which contributed to the growth in earnings in the six-month period included a 7.3% growth in income from financing activities before provision for doubtful debts, to NIS 453.6m, compared with NIS 424.3m.

In the reported period, the provision for doubtful debts fell 13.9% to NIS 41.4m.

The decrease in debts occurred mostly in the second quarter of the year, and was mainly due to an NIS 11m. reduction in the provision in the London branch.

In the third quarter of 1995, irregularities were found in the credit portfolio of the London branch.

A provision of NIS 7m. was made to cover for surplus loans to the construction sector, above the Bank of Israel's 20% limit.

In June, the bank's loans to the construction sector accounted for 22.7% of the bank's credit portfolio.

Local and overseas subsidiaries contribution to net earnings fell 25.8% to NIS 43.9m.

Management blamed the drop on the revaluation of the shekel against

the dollar which lowered the contribution of overseas affiliates.

Clal (Israel), Israel's second largest holding company, reported a 24% drop in its second quarter net profits to NIS 44.57 million, compared with NIS 58.91m. in the corresponding period last year.

Net profits in the first six months of the year increased to NIS 107.7m. compared with NIS 76.9m. Management said that the results include capital gains and other special clauses which amounted to NIS 28m. in the six-month period and NIS 1m. in the second quarter.

The capital gains derived from the sale of ECI Telecom shares, issue of Cimtrun and private issue of some of American Israel Paper Mills household paper division to Kimberly Clark.

The Israel Corp., the Eisenberg Group's main investment conglomerate, completed the second quarter of 1996 with a net profit of NIS 11.19 million compared with a net loss of NIS 5.66m. in the corresponding period last year.

Net profits in the first six months increased to NIS 49.18m. from NIS 37.2m. during the same period last year.

Ervin Eisenberg, president of the company, said the improvement was due to higher earnings from subsidiary companies, especially Israel Chemicals, Housing and Development and Oil Refineries.

The higher earnings were also due to an increase in capital gains in the first six months of the year, to NIS 33m. from NIS 7m.

Central bank: UMB fees lowest

Jerusalem Post Staff

UNITED Mizrahi Bank (UMB) charged the lowest bank fees in the last three years, a period during which all of the large commercial banks reduced fees in real terms, according to data released by the Bank of Israel yesterday.

The Bank of Israel published charts of average bank fees for the period starting at the end of 1993 and ending April 1996. The data shows that there is a narrowing in variations in fees among the banks.

In the reported period, Mizrahi had the lowest fees. Bank Leumi was the most expensive bank until December 1995, when it announced it was freezing fees. Since then, Leumi's fees have been similar to those in Bank Hapoalim, and First International Bank.

In April 1996, Bank Leumi, Hapoalim, and First International fees were 5.6% higher than those of United Mizrahi Bank, while Bank Discount's fees were 3.7% more expensive.

The Bank of Israel's data compared 12 types of fees. According to the data, bank fees fell about 9.2% in real terms during the reported period. Bank Leumi's fees fell 11.6% in real terms, Bank Hapoalim's fees decreased 9.9%, United Mizrahi Bank's were down 7.5%, First International Bank decreased 7.3% and Discount Bank were down 6.6%.

Foreign investment up 25% in first six months of '96

Jerusalem Post Staff

FOREIGN investments stood at \$1.4 billion (net) in the first half of the year, a 25 percent increase over the same period last year, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday.

Some 57% (\$0.8b) of this figure comprised real investments, with the remainder financial investments. Total foreign investments last year rose to \$2 billion from some \$90m. four years ago.

The financial investments were predominantly in Israeli firms traded abroad, particularly following the flotation of company shares in the US in the second half of 1995. An additional \$0.2b. was invested in securities on Israel's secondary market, similar to the sum placed in

the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Private sector foreign currency investments decreased by \$3.3b. in the first half of 1996 compared to the same period last year, the bank reported. From January to June such investments totaled \$2b. This trend was caused by the reduction of bank credit on short-term, foreign currency accounts for Israeli citizens, according to the bank.

Foreign-currency denominated credit borrowed from local banks by Israeli residents fell sharply over the same period, from \$3.4b. to \$0.6b., while foreign-currency denominated bank deposits rose over the first half of the year by \$0.4b., to an unspecified level.

רשות שדות התעופה בישראל
Israel Airports Authority

How to Speedily fly from Ben-Gurion Airport

August and September, the busiest months at the airport, can be made easier for you. This year, flying will be different — faster and more efficient. Ben Gurion Airport is equipped to handle around one million travelers during this period, but all speeding you through the airport and on to your destination will depend partly on you as well.

How to shorten the procedure

1. Advance check-in services

Nine airlines offer advance check-in services in Terminal 2, as well as at their offices in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa. All check-in procedures may be completed in advance to save time and "nerves" and when you get to the airport you can go directly through passport control and on to the duty-free stores. Your travel agent or airline will be happy to give you more information.

2. Reach the right terminal

Save precious time by finding out in advance which terminal you need to go to - 1 or 2. Free transportation is available between the two terminals and to and from the parking lot.

3. At the right time

If you don't take advantage of the advance check-in service, you need to be at the airport three hours before your flight time. Follow the signs and go directly to the security checking area.

4. Say good-bye at home and come on your own

You're best off going to the airport unaccompanied.

5. Choose a parking lot

Short-term and long-term parking facilities are available. Leave your car, get a trolley, and take your luggage into the airport. Information on parking and transportation facilities at Ben-Gurion Airport: Hebrew: 03-9731140; English: 03-9731130.

6. Save time by calling information

Up-to-date, detailed information on flight arrivals and departures is available in four languages. Hebrew: 03-9723333; English: 03-9723344; Arabic: 03-9723355; Russian: 03-9723366. And please - refrain from smoking in the airport.

Constant Improvements

Over the last two years, NIS 150m. has been invested in improving and expanding the existing terminal. New halls have been added, roads and parking lots widened, and new check-in terminals installed. And that's not all. Unfortunately, all this is not enough.

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Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	4.675	5.375	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	6.175	4.574	4.125	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.780	1.875	2.250	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.000	1.125	1.500	
Yen (10 million yen)				

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (27.8.96)					
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.5148	3.5715	3.06	2.22	4.5885
German mark	2.1159	2.1474	2.07	2.13	3.1370
French franc	4.8570	4.8354	4.77	5.01	2.1286
Japanese yen (100)	0.6173	0.6273	0.80	0.64	4.8914
Dutch florin	2.8912	2.8614	2.84	2.98	0.8214
Swiss franc	1.8845	1.9149	1.85	1.95	2.9104
Swedish krona	0.8131	0.8083	0.48	0.47	1.8989
Norwegian krona	0.4726	0.4847	0.47	0.49	2.6371
Danish krone	0.4868	0.4847	0.48	0.49	0.4755
Finnish mark	0.5470	0.5559	0.53	0.57	4.0097
Canadian dollar	0.6981	0.7074	0.68	0.72	0.5504
Australian dollar	2.2781	2.2865	2.23	2.35	1.7011
S. African rand	2.4583	2.4980	2.41	2.54	2.2502
Belgian franc (10)	0.6883	0.6985	0.67	0.70	2.4782
Austrian schilling (10)	1.0258	1.0422	1.00	1.06	0.8832
Italian lira (1000)	3.0025	3.0510	2.95	3.10	1.0284
Jordanian dinar	2.0632	2.0865	2.02	2.13	3.0223
Egyptian pound	4.3300	4.4300	4.33	4.63	2.0758
ECU	0.8900	0.9000	0.89	0.96	4.4545
Irish punt	3.9783	4.0410	3.93	4.13	0.9848
Spanish peseta (100)	6.0520	6.1335	4.96	5.21	4.0008
	2.4964	2.5367	2.45	2.58	5.0948

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes table with DJ Industrial, DJ Transport, etc.

Other stock market indexes table with NYSE 100, S&P 500, etc.

Israeli stocks in NY table listing companies like Am I, Am B, etc.

NYSE / AMEX table listing various stocks.

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

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Africa-Israel, Israel Chemicals lead shares up

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL

Two-Sided Index 175.08 +0.40%

Maof Index 186.12 +0.62%

STOCKS rose, led by Africa-Israel Investments Ltd., which jumped the 10 percent daily limit, and Israel Chemicals Ltd., which reported profits.

The advances were offset by drops at two top holding companies, Israel Corp. and Koor Industries Ltd.

"The chemical companies are doing well despite the appreciation of the shekel" against the US dollar, said Doron Tsur, head of research at Sahar Securities.

The Two-Sided Index rose 0.4% to 175.08, preliminary figures showed.

The Maof Index climbed 0.62% to 186.12.

The most active issue was Koor Industries, down 1% on NIS 3.3 million of shares traded. Koor is expected to report second-quarter earnings tomorrow. Africa-Israel followed at NIS 3.2m.

Monday Israel Chemicals reported a second-quarter profit of NIS 79.5m. against a year-ago loss. The shares rose 1.75 yesterday.

A stronger shekel hurts exporters like Israel's chemical companies.

Africa-Israel is scheduled to report earnings tomorrow. Israel Corp. shares dropped 5.75%, even as the holding company reported second-quarter profit of NIS 11.2m. against a loss of NIS 5.7m.

Elron Electronic Industries Ltd. jumped 5% as investors matched the arbitrage gap created when the shares in New York rose 7/16 to 10 5/16 Monday.

(Bloomberg)

Eurobourses end mixed; London shares recover

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses closed mixed yesterday with London clawing back most of the day's losses despite an unsteady start on Wall Street, hit by inflation worries.

The dollar weakened during the day with many dealers sidelined because of uncertainty over Tankyn's monetary direction ahead of the important Japanese Tankan economic survey on today. But it recovered at the close of trade.

Stocks in London started the week badly after a three-day weekend, slipping 0.3 percent, but bargain-hunters later moved in and the FTSE index recovered most of the lost ground to end only just in negative ground.

Yesterday's patchy showing in London followed a string of records last week, culminating in Friday's trading high of 3,911, fueled by a wave of European interest rate cuts. The London bourse drew little help from the unsettled morning on Wall Street, which slipped in and out of positive ground after a stronger-than-expected August consumer confidence report refueled inflation fears, pulling US Treasuries back from their early peaks.

Shortly after the report appeared showing the confidence index rising to 109.4 in August from a revised 107.0 in July, Wall Street relinquished virtually all its morning gains.

"Treasures remain very sensitive to any indication of a strong economy and we're still in that summer doldrum period of light trading," said Alan Ackerman, market strategist at Fainstock & Co. "Consequently, stocks and bonds are both subject to rapid swings."

Frankfurt was the one bright spot in Europe. Floor trading

ended up 0.25 percent and the computerized IBIS index climbed nearly 0.4%, given a push by the performance of chemical shares. "The market is trading 100% on fundamentals at the moment as interest rate fantasy disappears, it's all company news," said a trader.

French shares ended slightly down amid gnawing unease about a difficult autumn for the government, also weighed on the franc, dealers said.

Bond prices were weaker and the franc was quiet at 3.4210 per mark for the first time since August 13 as worries about the government's autumn budget and a weak US currency lifted the mark and squeezed French investments.

The dollar, which dropped sharply on Monday because of jitters over the Japanese Tankan survey, weakened further in quiet trading but regained losses to end the day close to Monday's levels.

"Besides the Tankan, there's nothing really until the US jobs numbers next week," said a UK bank corporate dealer. "There is still the summer malaise hanging over the market."

Foreign exchange markets regard the Tankan report as an important indication of the country's future monetary policy direction. If it points to weakness in the economy, the report will help the dollar regain some lost ground as speculation of a near-term rise in Japanese interest rates will evaporate.

The Japanese discount rate is currently at a record low of 0.5 percent.

The dollar was also pressured by the mark's strength against European currencies amid renewed concerns over Europe's economic and monetary union (EMU) timetable.

Frankfurt was the one bright spot in Europe. Floor trading

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

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LIBOR RATES

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NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

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US COMMODITIES

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SPOT METALS (US)

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Sampras, Seles advance easily

NEW YORK (AP) — Led by defending men's champion Pete Sampras, Olympic gold medalist Lindsay Davenport and No. 2 Monica Seles, a parade of seeded players moved into the second round of the US Open yesterday.

Iva Majoli and Alberto Costa were not among them.

Austria's Judith Wiesner, a surprise quarter-finalist at Wimbledon, upset the fifth-seeded Majoli 2-6, 6-3, 6-1 behind 10 aces.

Costa, the No. 14 men's seed from Spain, was bounced by Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic 2-6, 6-4, 7-6(7-2), 3-6, 6-1.

Sampras didn't know who his opponent would be until just before his match. It didn't matter.

The world's top-ranked player and top-seeded in this, the year's final Grand Slam tournament, brushed aside "lucky loser" Jimmy Szymanski of Venezuela 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 in 1 hour, 27 minutes — 16 minutes shorter than it took Wiesner to topple Majoli.

Sampras had been scheduled to play Romania's Adrian Panait. But when Panait pulled out of the tournament with a sprained left ankle, Szymanski was rushed into the

breach and straight out of the tournament.

Third-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria gained a second-round berth, downing Argentine's Javier Frana 6-1, 7-6(7-2), 6-2.

Davenport, who followed up her gold-medal performance at the Atlanta Games with a tournament title in Los Angeles, where she upset Steffi Graf, found little resistance from Adriana Serra-Zanetti. Davenport took only 46 minutes to down her Italian opponent 6-2, 6-1.

It took Seles 55 minutes to crush fellow American Anne Miller, who drew a cheer from the sparse crowd when she broke Seles' serve to win the fifth game of the second set and stave off being double-bagelged.

In yesterday's other early women's matches, Paola Suarez of Argentina defeated American Marianne Werdel Witmeyer 6-4, 6-3; Italy's Rita Grande downed Alexia Dechaume-Balleret of France 6-3, 6-0; Nathalie Tauziat of France stopped Mexico's Angelica Gavaldon 7-6(7-4), 6-2; Germany's Elena Wagner ousted Gigi Fernandez 6-1, 6-4; Natasha Zvereva of Belarus defeated Spain's Virginia Ruano-Pascual 6-2, 6-7(5-7), 6-2, and South African

Mariaan de Swardt outlasted Dominique van Roost of Belgium 1-6, 6-2, 7-6(7-4).

In early men's play, Alex Corretja of Spain defeated Zimbabwe's Byron Black 7-6(8-6), 3-6, 6-2, 6-2; Petr Korda of the Czech Republic stopped American David Caldwell 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5; and Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic downed Australian Ben Ellwood 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.

The controversial US Open re-draw put Michael Chang and Andre Agassi on course to meet in the semifinals. On Monday, they both took the first steps toward getting there, Agassi more easily than Chang.

Chang struggled past Brazilian Jaime Oncins 3-6, 6-1, 6-0, 7-6(8-6). Agassi zipped by Colombia's Mauricio Hadad 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.

On Monday, the tournament lost No. 9 Mary Joe Fernandez and men's No. 8 Jim Courier, who both withdrew due to injuries.

Also Monday, Mali'vai Washington, seeded 11th, scored a four-set win over Karim Alami of Morocco 6-4, 2-6, 7-6, 6-1.

Women's 12th-seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria lost to Poland's Aleksandra Olsza 4-6, 6-2.



THE PRIDE OF ISRAEL — Deputy Minister of Education Moshe Peled (l) and Yosef Lotenberg, spokesman for the Organization of Disabled IDF Veterans, greet one of the Israeli Paralympians who returned from Atlanta yesterday. (Shaul Rahamim)

Taiba falls at first hurdle

Hapoel Taiba's baptism of fire in the National League ended in a disappointing 3-1 defeat last night for the hundreds of fans who had traveled to see their side play Ironi Rishon Lezion in its debut match in the top flight.

The Rishonites, benefitting from having home advantage were in command throughout the game against the first National League side to hail from the Arab sector.

In other soccer news, the timing of yesterday's decision to issue indictments against players allegedly involved in the illegal betting affair, has met with surprise from the coach and players of the national squad. With less than a week to go before Israel's opening qualifying group match against Bulgaria, the players continued with their training camp yesterday.

Maccabi Tel Aviv veteran Nir Klinger, the national team captain, who was interviewed by the police several months ago, indicated his concern that the issue could only harm the players' preparations. "The whole thing has been blown out of proportion,

and it doesn't help our morale before this important game," Klinger said.

Gavri Levy, deputy chairman of the Israel Football Association, suggested that the affair was par for the course in a country where politicians and people in public office were regularly accused of wrongdoing, often without the matter proceeding to trial. Levy stated yesterday that the IFA had no plans to take disciplinary action against any players who might be named in the indictments. *Derek Fattal*

Club	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beit Jerusalem	1	0	0	3	0	3
Hapoel	1	0	0	3	0	3
Hapoel Haifa	1	0	0	3	0	3
Maccabi Haifa	1	0	0	3	0	3
Ironi Rishon	1	0	0	3	0	3
Hapoel Beersheba	1	0	0	3	0	3
Zestrom Holon	1	0	0	3	0	3
Enel Yehuda	1	0	0	3	0	3
Hapoel Beit She'an	1	0	0	3	0	3
Hapoel Taiba	0	1	1	3	0	0
Hapoel Tel Aviv	0	1	1	3	0	0
Maccabi Tel Aviv	0	1	1	3	0	0
Maccabi Herzliya	0	1	1	3	0	0
Hapoel Kfar Saba	0	1	1	3	0	0
Hapoel Jerusalem	0	1	1	3	0	0
Maccabi Petach Tikva	0	1	1	3	0	0

SPORTS BRIEFS

Ball resigns as Manchester City manager
Former England midfielder Alan Ball resigned as manager of first division side Manchester City on Monday night, the club said.

Ball, appointed in July 1995, was unable to prevent City being relegated from the premier league last season and his record read 13 wins, 14 draws and 22 losses in 49 games. They have lost two of their three matches so far this season. *Reuters*

McGrath left out of Ireland World Cup squad
Ireland's most experienced player, defender Paul McGrath, was left out of the national squad for the first time in 11 years yesterday when new manager Mick McCarthy named his side to face Liechtenstein in a World Cup qualifier.

The 36-year-old Aston Villa player won the last of his Irish record of 82 international caps against the Czech Republic in Prague in April. *Reuters*

Gooch to play another season for Essex
Graham Gooch, the 43-year-old former England captain, is to continue playing county cricket for at least another season, his club Essex announced yesterday.

Opener Gooch's decision comes towards the end of a season in which he has underlined his consistency by becoming the leading scorer in Essex's history, beating Keith Fletcher's aggregate of 29,434. *Reuters*

Waqar Younis signs with Glamorgan
Pakistan fast-bowling Waqar Younis signed to play county cricket for Glamorgan yesterday on a two-year contract reported to be worth £200,000.

Waqar will be having his second spell on the county circuit, having taken 232 wickets in three seasons for Surrey — 1990, 1991 and 1993 — before moderate back problems interrupted his career. *Reuters*

CRICKET TEST AVERAGES

PAKISTAN						ENGLAND							
Batting	M	NO	R	HS	Avg	Batting	M	NO	R	HS	Avg		
Iqbal Khan	2	3	1	158	105	79.00	Alan Stewart	3	5	0	396	170	79.20
Ijaz Ahmed	3	6	1	344	141	69.80	John Crawley	2	3	0	178	106	59.00
Saim Khatri	2	3	1	185	100	65.00	Nick Knight	2	3	0	190	113	38.00
Inzamam-ul-Haq	3	5	0	320	148	64.00	Nasser Hussain	3	5	0	111	51	37.00
Saeed Anwar	3	6	0	362	176	60.23	Mike Atherton	3	5	0	162	84	32.40
Rashid Latif	1	1	0	45	45	45.00	Graham Thorpe	3	5	0	159	77	31.80
Fazal Sohail	2	3	1	77	46	39.50	Hopkins	2	3	1	51	41	25.50
Asif Majeed	2	3	0	90	51	30.00	Ian Salisbury	2	4	1	50	40	16.96
Wasim Akram	3	5	1	138	40	24.50	Mark Eathen	1	2	0	30	25	15.00
Shoaib Akhtar	2	4	0	87	35	21.75	Dominic Cork	3	5	0	58	26	11.60
Yasir Agha	3	3	1	44	20	11.00	Robert Croft	1	2	1	11	6	6.00
Waqar Younis	3	3	1	11	7	5.50	Hopkins	1	2	1	11	10	10.00
Aiz-ul-Haque	2	2	0	10	10	10.00	Alan Mullally	3	5	1	39	24	9.75
Muhammad Afridi	1	0	0	0	0	0.00	Chris Lewis	2	3	0	18	9	6.00
							Andy Caddick	1	1	0	4	4	4.00
							Graham Hick	1	2	0	6	4	4.00

Gooden Green abused alcohol

DWIGHT Gooden has been waiting for a chance to lash out at his former Mets manager, and the time appeared right Monday night in Seattle after Dallas Green was fired by New York.

"Dallas' problems came from alcohol," Gooden said before the Yankees game against the Mariners. "Some of the things he said about me... he needs to look in the mirror and check himself first."

Gooden berated Green's harsh reaction to his 1994 suspension because of Gooden's drug problems. Green offered no sympathy, instead calling drug addiction a selfish act that only lets teammates down.

When Gooden left the Mets in 1994, he promised that as long as Green managed at Shea, there was no chance of a reconciliation. But with Green gone, Gooden is leaving the door open for a return to Shea. "If things don't work out here with the Yankees, then I could see myself going back to the Mets someday. Definitely, now that he's gone." *AP*

Tribe's Nagy three-hits Tigers

DETROIT (AP) — Jim Thome bit a tiebreaking homer in the ninth and Charles Nagy pitched a three-hitter for his first win in six starts as the Cleveland Indians beat the Detroit Tigers 2-1 Monday night.

Thome's 29th homer came with one out and broke a 1-1 tie as the Indians stayed perfect this season against Detroit. Travis Fryman homered for the Tigers, who are 0-10 against the Indians.

Nagy (13-4) won for the first time since July 25. He was 0-1 with four no-decisions in his previous five starts.

Felipe Lira (6-11) allowed just four hits but remained winless since July 7.

Orlando 12, Athletics 11 (10)
Baltimore's Cal Ripken drew a bases-loaded walk off Mark Acree in the bottom of the 10th, capping the final rally in a game of comebacks.

The Orioles blew an 8-3 lead, then scored two in the ninth in the tie. After Mike Bordick singled in the go-ahead run in the 10th, the seasaw game took its last turn in the bottom of the inning.

Acree (0-2) hit Chris Hoiles with a pitch but got the next two batters out. Brady Anderson then hit a triple to tie the score, and Acree issued two intentional walks to load the bases. Ripken then ducked a high 3-1 pitch, forcing in the winning run.

In the top of the 10th, Bordick scored pinch-runner Rafael Bourimigal with a two-out single off

Randy Myers (3-3). Earlier, a wild throw by Bordick coaled Baltimore to score seven unearned runs in the third inning for an 8-3 lead. Oakland fought back and went ahead 10-8 on the second homer of the game by rookie Tony Batista, a two-run shot in the eighth.

Batista, who came in with two homers and five RBIs, drove in four runs. Steinbach and Matt Stairs also homered for the A's, who have lost six of seven and 11 of 14.

Red Sox 4, Angels 1
Tim Wakefield pitched a six-hitter, and Mo Vaughn and Troy O'Leary homered as visiting Boston got its 20th win in 26 games.

The Red Sox, who began the season 6-19, moved two games over .500 for the first time this year.

Wakefield (11-11) struck out five and walked one in his fifth complete game. The knuckleballer won for the sixth time in eight decisions.

Jim Edmonds homered in the sixth inning, just beyond O'Leary's reach in left field.

Vaughn hit his 38th home run on the first pitch of the second inning by Jason Dickson (1-1). Two outs later, O'Leary made it 2-0 with his 15th homer, and fourth in six games.

Mariners 2, Yankees 1
Jay Buhner, mired in a 6-for-37 slump, had an RBI single in the eighth inning to give host Seattle the victory over New York.

Yankees starter Jimmy Key was hit in the left elbow by a line drive in the first inning. He left the game and was taken to a hospital for X-rays.

Buhner, who struck out in his previous three at-bats, singled off Dave

Pavlas to score Ken Griffey Jr. from second base. Bernie Williams bobbled the ball in center and made no throw to the plate.

Griffey led off the inning with a walk against Graeme Lloyd (2-5). Pavlas then came and walked. Martinez.

Norm Charlton got the final two outs for his 14th save.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Giants 1, Phillies 0
William VanLandingham allowed two hits over eight innings, retiring 17 consecutive batters during one stretch, for host San Francisco.

VanLandingham (8-13) gave up a two-out double in the first to Jim Eisenreich and a leadoff single to Wendell Magee in the eighth. The right-hander had four strikeouts and walked two.

Jim Poole retired the first batter in the ninth before giving up a single to Eisenreich, and Rod Beck got the final two outs for his 29th save.

Philadelphia's Curt Schilling (6-7) was overpowering following Glenallen Hill's RBI single in the first, allowing five hits over seven innings.

Cardinals 3, Astros 2
Willie McGee hit a two-run homer and the visiting St. Louis Cardinals tightened the NL Central race with a win over Houston in a game delayed 10 minutes when a fan fell onto the field.

McGee got three hits — a double and an infield hit in the eighth about the same time a fan fell from the stands in right field.

Club	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	74	56	.569	—
Baltimore	69	61	.531	5
Boston	67	63	.508	8
Toronto	62	70	.470	13
Detroit	47	84	.359	27 1/2

Cleveland 2, Detroit 1
Toronto 5, Minnesota 3
Milwaukee 3, Chicago 2
Baltimore 12, Oakland 11 (10)
Boston 4, California 1
Seattle 2, New York 1

Club	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	81	48	.628	—
Montreal	70	59	.543	11
Florida	61	70	.466	21
New York	59	72	.450	23
Philadelphia	53	79	.402	29 1/2

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הכלה מן האוכל

Mordechai: Israel vigilant after Syrian troop moves

THE IDF is monitoring the movements of Syrian forces in Lebanon, but at the same time we must be cautious and keep calm, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday.

"We must be cautious and avoid coming out with declarations. We are looking at all of the threats and we don't have any interest in making them worse or leading to warlike actions through words or headlines," Mordechai told reporters in Tel Aviv.

US Ambassador Martin Indyk said he believes both Israel and Syria are committed to the peace process, and therefore both need to find a way to advance the negotiations. Indyk emphasized that the Syrian movements have a defensive nature, but said the US is unsure of the reasons behind them.

"It is important for both sides - as well as us - to concentrate on advancing the talks. Both sides want peace and not war," he said.

He added that according to his assessment the situation is not tense and has not gotten out of control of the sides.

Regarding reported movement of US aircraft carriers off the Lebanese coast, Indyk said he was not aware of any such moves, and even so, they do not have any connection to the Syrian moves in Lebanon.

Also yesterday, Mordechai hosted a toast at the Defense Ministry in honor of the Arrow 2's successful missile interception test last week. "Israel will in the not so distant future have a very good answer to the mis-

sile threat," Mordechai said. Among those who attended the gathering were Defense Ministry director-general David Ivry, Indyk, Israel Aircraft Industries director-general Moshe Karet, Deputy Chief of Staff Matan Vilnai, OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu, and other IDF and IAI officials.

"There won't ever be a perfect answer to the threats, but the Arrow will provide a solution to one of the most dangerous ones in the Middle East," Mordechai said. He praised the Arrow project staff, which already 10 years ago identified the threat and coordinated with the US to develop a solution.

Indyk said he was "excited and proud" to have witnessed the Arrow 2 test success, noting that it was a kind of fulfillment of US President Bill Clinton's promise to aid Israel in the Arrow's development. Indyk added that the project was an example of good cooperation between the two countries.

Ivry thanked Indyk for his and the US's ongoing cooperation with the project. He added that the ground-to-ground missile and international terrorism threats were the main issues which now need to be focused on in the Middle East.

Ivry said he believed it was of utmost importance to hasten the completion of the Arrow - for operational reasons and to give another tool to Israel's political echelon in its decision-making process and attempts to achieve peace in the region. (Iim)

Islamists lose in Lebanese elections

BEIRUT (Reuters) Islamists lost in the second round of Lebanon's parliamentary elections in north Lebanon while several supporters of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri won seats, according to unofficial results released yesterday.

Almost all the 28 winning candidates in Sunday's vote were friends of Syria.

The traditional political leaders of the north were re-elected but failed to secure a sweeping victory as Hariri's supporters advanced in what newspapers have dubbed the most confusing phase of Lebanon's five-stage elections. Official results were expected either last night or this morning, official sources said.

Former prime minister Omar Karami, a Sunni Moslem, and Sleiman Franjeh, a local Maronite Christian chief, were re-elected on a joint ticket. But only 16 other members of their list were returned compared with 25 in 1992. Both men are critics of Hariri although they are close friends of Syria which supports his government.

Partly due to Syrian influence, Karami and Franjeh included

three Hariri supporters on their list. All three, including Information Minister Farid Makraj and State Minister Qabalan Issa Khoury, were elected. Two other government ministers won on another list.

However, several well-known pro-Syrians on the ticket including Abdullah Chahhal, secretary-general of the pro-Syrian Baath party, were defeated.

Georges Saade, head of the once-powerful right-wing Christian Phalangist party who engineered its rapprochement with Syria in recent years, was also defeated.

A ticket headed by Karami's cousin Ahmed Karami, an ally of Hariri, won eight seats. But three candidates on the ticket of the fundamentalist Sunni Moslem Gama'a Islamiyah (Moslem Group), including two of its three deputies in parliament, were defeated. The Gama'a, which has a single candidate in next Sunday's election in Beirut, opposes Hariri and is allied in parliament with Hizbullah which also lost a seat in the first round of the election in Mount Lebanon.



Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav (left) and Antiquities Authority head Amir Drori (right) applaud, as William Davidson of Detroit unveils the plaque marking the Second Temple Period Archeological Park, dedicated yesterday at the foot of Jerusalem's Temple Mount. Davidson donated the funds for the restoration of the site, at the foot of Robinson's Arch, which includes a 70-meter stretch of the city's main street at the time of Jerusalem's destruction by the Romans in 70 CE. (Ariel Jerolimski)

Police probing 'Yediot' editor over payoffs to policeman

RAINE MARCUS

THE police are investigating whether Eitan Amit, an editor at *Yediot Aharonot*, paid off a police officer, who was later dismissed from the force for fraud, in return for information on MK Avner Shaki (National Religious Party).

According to a senior police source, *Yediot* security officer Haim Rosenberg, during his recent questioning in connection with the media wiretapping case,

told detectives that Amit paid Danny Weig, then still on the force, for classified information against Shaki more than five years ago. Amit allegedly threatened to expose Weig visits to brothels if he did not give him the information.

Amit was questioned last March, after police launched an undercover investigation into the

affair following information given by Weig. However Weig, who has been arrested and questioned several times for additional fraud, forgery, and bad check offences since leaving the force, is considered unreliable.

But the senior officer said that Rosenberg's testimony only confirms earlier suspicions about Amit.

Police are now investigating whether Weig was paid by Amit, with the knowledge of Rosenberg and *Yediot* publisher Arnon Mozes.

Police are expected to summon Amit, who replaced Moshe Vardi as editor earlier this year, for further questioning. Vardi was forced to resign his post following an indictment on wiretapping charges.

Eitan: US must insist Jordan, Syria adhere to agreement on Yarmuk's waters

"THE US must see to it that if the Jordan-Syria Yarmuk dam project is built, there will be no violation of the Johnson Agreement for distribution of the Yarmuk's waters," Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan said yesterday.

He said that Israel is committed to its peace agreement with Jordan, and is fulfilling it, including supplying 50 million cubic meters of water a year to Jordan, most of it earmarked for Amman.

Eitan called on the US to intervene with Jordan and Syria to ensure they keep to the agreement about distribution of water, as outlined in the 1952 Johnson Agreement.

He said a plan should be implemented to establish a plant to desalinate 600 million cu. m. of water, by using the flow of Mediterranean water to the plant to create the energy to desalinate the water at a price of 60 cents a cubic meter. The desalinated water would be

divided between Israel, Jordan, and the autonomous Palestinian regions.

Eitan said the plan would earn a profit and should be implemented to solve the region's water problems. He added that Syria is trying to prevent Jordan from being dependent on Israel for its water resources.

Eitan said a drastic, long-term solution must be found for the country's home and industrial waste, so that Israel does not soon become a "garbage state."

He said incinerators that would produce water and electricity, as in Japan and some European countries, should be introduced here. He said that burying waste in the ground is a sorry waste of land that would be needed by future generations, and called for the establishment of an incinerator for industrial waste near the institute for purifying waste water in Haifa Bay, so as not to have to transport this waste the length of the country to Ramat Hovav. (Iim)

Shas MKs ask to join petition against Ben-Yair's bid to lift Pinhasi's immunity

EVELYN GORDON

A SHAS minister, five Shas MKs, the party itself and some 140 activists and supporters asked yesterday to join a petition to the High Court of Justice by MK Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) against Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair's request that the Knesset lift Pinhasi's immunity.

Five justices are to hear the case tomorrow. In the request, filed by attorney Michael Caspi, the MKs and activists argued that since Pinhasi was elected to represent Shas voters in the Knesset, they had a vested interest in the case, and should therefore be allowed to plead before the court. If Ben-Yair is allowed to start proceedings to lift Pinhasi's immunity, they explained, this will divert his time and attention from his Knesset work, and will therefore negatively affect the party, its voters and its other MKs.

The MKs - Labor and Social Affairs

Minister Eli Yishai, faction chairman Shlomo Beotzri, Yitzhak Vakno, Aryeh Gamliel, David Azoulay and Yitzhak Coheo - said that as MKs, they also had a more general interest in the case.

First, they explained, the issue of whether the attorney-general can try to lift an MK's immunity twice relates to the general rights and privileges of all MKs.

Secondly, the petition raises questions about the right of a new Knesset to overturn a previous one on a quasi-judicial decision, they said. While later Knessets clearly have the right to overturn laws passed by earlier ones, it is not clear that the same is true for quasi-judicial decisions - and this is a question on which MKs clearly have something to say, the request argued.

Ben-Yair previously tried to lift Pinhasi's immunity in 1993. The previous Knesset acceded to his request in March of that year, but reversed its decision four months later during a revote ordered by the High Court in response to another petition filed by Pinhasi. Pinhasi's current petition argues that Ben-Yair has no right to try to lift his immunity a second time, just because there is a new Knesset.

Ben-Yair wants Pinhasi's immunity lifted so that he can be tried for crimes allegedly committed during the 1988 general elections. According to the draft indictment, Pinhasi hired yeshiva students - who are not allowed to work, because they receive draft deferrals - to work in Shas' campaign, and then lied to the tax authorities about it. He also allegedly submitted a false set of books to the state comptroller.

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
	C	F	C
Amsterdam	10	50	cloudy
Berlin	10	50	cloudy
Buenos Aires	15	59	clear
Chengde	17	63	partly
Chicago	11	52	clear
Düsseldorf	11	52	clear
Frankfurt	11	52	clear
Geneva	14	57	clear
Hong Kong	22	72	cloudy
London	10	50	clear
Los Angeles	18	64	partly
Madrid	15	59	clear
Moscow	14	57	clear
Munich	10	50	clear
New York	12	54	clear
Paris	14	57	clear
Rome	12	54	clear
Sydney	18	64	cloudy
Tel Aviv	21	70	clear
Tokyo	18	64	clear
Vancouver	15	59	clear
Zurich	11	52	clear

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the eight of spades, the queen of hearts, the queen of diamonds, and the eight of clubs.

In last night's weekly Lotu drawing, the winning numbers were 6, 14, 19, 27, 35 and 45 and the additional number was 39.

Zandberg suspected of obtaining documents illegally

MK Eliezer Zandberg (Tsmet) has been questioned regarding suspicion he obtained tax documents on the business dealings of fellow Tsmet MK Pini Badash illegally by penetrating the Income Tax Authority's computer. Army Radio reported yesterday.

The report said police recently received new information according to which Zandberg also used his connections with the tax authorities to obtain documents regarding Badash's business dealings, in order to block his chances at advancement within the party.

Zandberg, the number two man in the party, was questioned at the end of July regarding these suspicions. A former Tsmet activist allegedly told police Zandberg bragged about his attempts to get the information, but she said: "He found nothing, because there was nothing to find. But he tried."

The material obtained from the computer was apparently never used, but the charges are nonetheless considered serious, according to the police.

Zandberg is also suspected of previously obtaining army documents regarding Tsmet activist Asher Cohen and Labor's Shimon Sheves, Micha Goldman, and Hagai Merom. Tsmet source say the use of such documents became systematic in the party in attempts to get rid of political enemies, and that the investigation is not yet complete.

Zandberg admitted he had been questioned by police, adding: "It's all nonsense, as I will prove if I have to." He refused to be interviewed by Army Radio. (Iim)

Arab and Jewish teenagers win UN trip

Two teenage girls are to fly to Geneva today to learn about the United Nations first hand, after winning a nationwide essay competition about the organization's work and its role in the future.

Meira Azrad, 18, of Moshav Mele'a near Afula, who is active in Bnei Akiva, and Suba Mohammed Kabat, 16, of Majd-el-Kurum in western Galilee, jointly won first prize in the competition, organized by the UN Association of Israel.

Hanan Michaeli, secretary-general of the association, said the two would be briefed by top UN officials about the various UN agencies and institutions, and would participate as observers at meetings.

David Rubin

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